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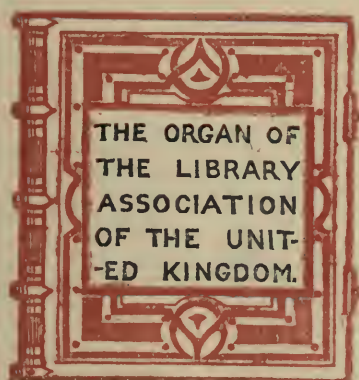






# The Library

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# INDEX.

- ABERDEEN PUBLIC LIBRARY, Duplex indicator at, 21; new buildings, 113; report, 166; extension of boundaries, 477  
 Aberdeen University, librarian's duties, 154  
 Ackworth School, bibliography of, 74, 226  
 Advertising free libraries, 111, 114  
 Aldrich, S. J., Procope Valdfoghel, 217  
 Alloa public library, catalogue, 121  
 Altrincham and the Libraries Acts, 69, 477  
 Alverstoke adopts Libraries Acts, 113  
*American bibliography*, 195  
 American books, &c., 227  
 American Library Association, greetings, 381  
 Andover free library, 230  
*Apothecarie, Ye*, 264, 470  
 Arber, E., *London publishers*, 273  
*Arbroath periodical literature*, 194  
 Arias, Benedictus, 90  
*Armorial du bibliophile*, 471  
 Ascot, Durning library at, 28, 114  
 Ashford, proposed free library, 230  
 Ashton, R., 114  
 Ashton-under-Lyne technical school and free library, 195  
 Assessment of libraries, 119  
 Aston public library, report, 442  
 Auckland, N.Z., public library, 328  
 Augustine, St., *De Civitate Dei*, 330  
 Author, The, to his book, 37  
 Axon, W. E. A., Thos. Taylor the Platonist, 245, 292  
 Ayr, proposed free library, 356; adoption of Libraries Acts, 477  
  
 BAILEY, J. E., 377  
 Bailey, W. H., electric light, 382  
 Ballinger, J., interviewed on cataloguing, 196  
 Banbridge, proposed free library, 269  
 Banchory public library, opening, 269  
 Baptist bibliography, 195  
 Barking public library, report, 442; progress, 477  
 Barnsley public library, adoption of Acts, 114; donations, 160; opening, 309  
 Barrett, F. T., libraries of Glasgow, 115  
 Barrow-in-Furness free library, report, 442  
 Batement, R., training of Assistants, 30  
 Battersea public libraries, Nine Elms branch, 29; responsibility of guarantors, 155; opening of Central library, 198; catalogue, 228; female assistants, 231; Sunday opening, 311; report, 359; Lurline Gardens branch, 437  
 Bearwood, visit of Library Association to, 397  
 Begging for books, 31  
*Belfast early printed books*, 475  
 Belfast free library, visit of Lord Lieutenant to, 114; catalogue, 121; report, 167; opening of reference library, 477  
 Belfast library, growth of, 160  
 Benedict, St., 241  
 Benevolent fund suggested, 376, 385  
 Berlin libraries, volumes in, 469  
 Bermondsey free library, 231  
 Bethnal Green free library, festival dinner, 29; growth, 118; students' union, 118, 162; an East End free library, 174; report, 484  
 Beveridge, M., gift to Kirkcaldy, 198  
 Bibles: "She," 1, 96, 141, Plantin's editions, 87; Complutensian, 89; polyglots, 90; the Fry library, 162; editions of Latin, 393; Gutenberg's 435  
*Bibliographica Italiana*, 73  
 Bibliographical works in British Museum, 33  
 Bibliography of the Livery Companies, 301; bibliography as she is wrote, 449  
*Bibliotheca Lindesiana*, 471  
 Bilston public library, 160  
 Bingley adopts Libraries Acts, 28, 114  
 Birkenhead free library, advertising circular, 111, *see also* Supplements; report, 201  
 Birmingham free libraries, new branches, 160, 195; how we built up a burnt library, 172; gift of Sir H. Parkes, 309; report, 359; and the adoption of Libraries Acts, 367  
 Birmingham library, report, 114  
 Blackburn free library, appointment of librarian, 114; report, 359  
 Blades, W., death of, 191; obituary notices, 205, 377; *Bibliographical miscellanies*, 472  
 Blairgowrie and Rattray and the Libraries Acts, 436  
 Blind, books for the, 442  
*Bloomsbury and St. Giles'*, 399  
 Bologna, Biblioteca Universitaria di, catalogue, 111  
*Bookbinding, Quaritch's facsimiles*, 225  
 Book covers, 272  
 Book mark and date record, 442



- Book prices current*, 168  
 Books and reading, 332  
 Books, purchase of, 28, 170 ; small books of the day, 372  
 Books reviewed, 32 *et seq.*  
 Bootle free library and museum, advertising circular, 111, *see also* Supplements ; students' room, 114 ; report, 359 ; catalogue, 440 ; reading lists, 446 ; *museum handy guide*, 447  
 Borrajo prize essay, 34  
 Boston Unitarian Chapel Library, 358  
 Bouchot, H., *The book*, 33  
 Bowdon, proposed free library, 309 ; rejection of Libraries Acts, 477  
 Bradford free library, &c., report, 121 ; electric lighting, 161 ; teachers' guild library, 309 ; catalogue, 440  
 Bradshaw, H., 114  
 Bradshaw, Henry, 132  
 Branch, or district, libraries, 115  
 Brechin adopts Libraries Acts, 114, 161 ; the Mechanics' Institute Library, 195 ; donation to, 310  
 Brentford free library, appointment of librarian, 28 ; opening, 114 ; catalogue, 441 ; report, 442  
 Brighton free library, catalogue, 195 ; progress, 478  
 Briscoe, J. P., library indicators, 235 ; presentation to, 480  
 Bristol, Library Association to meet at, in 1891, 387  
 Bristol free libraries, catalogue of Redland branch, 441  
 Bristol library and museum, report, 484  
 British Museum, statistics, 31 ; *list of reference books*, 32 ; *list of bibliographical works*, 33 ; *catalogue of manuscripts*, 33 ; Tudor books at the, 63, 188 ; illustrations of early printing, 131 ; new regulations, 162 ; presentations to the Guildhall library, 163 ; to Newcastle, 164 ; to Nottingham, 200 ; new Caxton, 198 ; Mr. Gladstone and the, 467  
 Brown, H. F., *Venetian printing press*, 473  
 Brown, J. D., statistics, 446 ; statistical tables, 35 *et seq.*  
 Browne, J. de M., 232  
 Browning library, proposed, 270  
 Brushfield, T. N., papers, 169  
 Buddha, birth stories of, 475  
 Bull, H. W., 163  
 Bullen, G., testimonial, 314  
 Bunbury, gift of library to, 230  
 Buonanno, G., 473  
 Burnley, proposed free library, 478  
 library, 118 ; opening, 356 ; opening of Livesey library, 438 ; catalogue, 440  
 Cambridge public library, reports, 360, 442  
 Cambridge University extension lectures, 443  
 Cambridge University library, new buildings, 114 ; purchase of Phillips' collection, 161 ; finances, 196  
 Campbell, F., state paper catalogue, 394  
 Campbell, G. L., library legislation, 123  
 Campkin, H., 377  
 Cardiff free library, Cathays branch, 230 ; resignation of Dr. Taylor, 269 ; new buildings 310 ; catalogue, 358 ; report, 360  
 Carlisle adopts Libraries Acts, 269  
 Carnegie, A., gift to Peterhead, 71 ; on public libraries, 71 ; gift to Aberdeen, 166 ; to Dunfermline, 310 ; to Ayr, 356 ; to Blairgowrie, 436 ; to Inverness, 437  
 Caronti, Andrea, catalogue of Bologna University library, 111  
*Caspar's directory*, 227  
 Castro, Leon de, 94  
 Cataloguing, prize for example of rules, 34 ; *How to catalogue a Library*, 73  
 Caxton, W., unknown work of, 198 ; works in Auckland free library, 330  
 Cayas, Don G. de, 17  
 Celtic library, proposed, 162  
 Chain verses, 354  
 Chained libraries, 472  
 Chapman, R. C., 310  
 Charters of Reading, 381  
 Chatsworth, library at, 232  
 Chelsea public library, loan for new building, 29, 118 ; damage to book at, 70 ; opening of Kensal Town branch, 70 ; new building, 115 ; gift of relievos, 478  
 Cheltenham free library, gift of Dr. Day's library, 69 ; report, 167 ; catalogue, 482  
 Chesterfield free library, use by non-residents, 115  
 'Chief' librarian, 487  
 Childs, G. W., banquet to, 169  
 Chiswick adopts Libraries Acts, 118, 162 ; librarianship, 478  
 Christie, Chanc. R. C., thanks to President of Library Association, 381 ; Library Association Council report, 384 ; discussion of report, 387  
 Circulars of information, 111, 114, *see also* Supplements  
 Clapham free library, report, 360  
 Classification, suggestions for scientific, 36 ; of Sion College library, 193  
 Clerkenwell free library, new building, 118, 199 ; report, 360 ; opening, 438



- Clinch, G., topographical works of, 468  
 Collins, Wilkie, memorial library, 199  
 Colombo public library, 481  
 Colophons of early printers, 125  
*Congrès bibliographique internationale*, 32  
 Coomber, F. J., 120  
 Copinger, W. A., *Bibliography of the five points*, 194; editions of Latin Bible, 393  
 Courtney, C., 269  
 Coventry free library, extension, 230  
 Covert, W. L. F., the Auckland free library, 328  
 Cowell, P., lecture, 162; electric light, 382; Library Association Constitution, 386  
 Creech, Mr., the Edinburgh publisher, 266  
 Cremona public library, globes at, 473  
 Crieff free library, 115, 436  
 Cromwell documents, 329  
 Croydon free library, opening, 196; librarianship, 310; report, 360  
 DAMAGE to books, at Liverpool, 69; at Chelsea, 70  
 Dante literature, 113, 476  
 Darlaston free library, 28  
 Darwen free library, 161  
 Davis, C. T., statistics, 446  
 Day, Dr. F., library of, 69  
 Deane, Sir T. N., knighted, 436  
 Deptford rejects Libraries Acts, 478  
 Deptford library and club (Braby & Co.'s), 484  
 Derby free library, appointments at, 269; report, 442  
 Dewsbury free library, opening of reading room, 69  
 Dickson, Dr. R., *Scottish printing*, 157, 251  
*Dictionary of National Biography*, 476  
 Ditchfield, P. H., literature and writers of Reading, 393, 401  
 Dobson, Austin, the author to his book, 37  
 Doncaster free library, report, 167  
 Doubleday, W. E., *Heiress of Haddon*, 264  
 Downes, C. M., 30  
 Downie, Robert, librarian of Aberdeen University, 154  
 Dublin, Dr. Marsh's library, 478  
 Dublin national library, new building, 310, 436  
 Duff, E. G., Frederick Egmond, 210  
 Dulwich adopts Libraries Acts, 28  
 Dundee free library and Government publications, 196  
 Dunfermline free library, gift of Mr. Carnegie, 310  
 Duplex indicator, Mr. Robertson's, 21  
 Durning-Smith library at Ascot, 114  
 Dymes, T. J., *Trade of the World*, 168  
 Dziatzko, Dr. K., Gutenberg researches, 435  
 EALING free library, report, 360  
 East End free library, 174  
 Edinburgh, publishers of, 266; Mr Gladstone visits libraries of, 478  
 Edinburgh, advocates' library, work of, 196  
 Edinburgh free library, purchase of books, 28; sub-librarianship, 161; rating, 230; opening by Lord Rosebery, 265, 270; lending department opened, 310; ratepayer's complaint, 314; librarian's salary, 436  
 Edinburgh mechanics' library, proposed closing, 115; new premises, 270  
 Edinburgh Museum of Science library, 311  
*Edinburgh Review*, 266  
 Edmond, J. P., thanks to, 387; statistics, 446  
 Edwards, Passmore, gifts to free libraries, 29, 265  
 Egmond, Frederick, 210  
 Electric lighting in libraries, effect on paper, 31; at Bradford, 161; discussion on, 382; at Newcastle, 443, 480  
 Elizabeth, Queen, and the Earl of Essex, books, 65  
 Elliot, J., presentation to, 167  
 Essex, Earl of, Queen Elizabeth and the books of, 65  
 Eversley, visit of Library Association to, 397  
 Exchanges, acknowledgment of, 487  
 Exeter museum and free library, 69  
 Exeter monastic library, 469  
 FABER, R. S., Christopher Plantin, 12, 38, 87, 133  
 Faustinus, Perisaulus, 44  
 Ferguson, Prof. J., note on the *De Triumpho Stultitiae*, 44  
 Fernley, James, 438  
 Ferrar, Nicholas, 317  
 Fichet, Guillaume, letter of, 273  
 Fiction in free libraries, 178, 373  
*Five points, Bibliography of the*, 194  
 Fleay, J. F., certain modern Shakespeareana, 277  
 Flower, C. E., gifts of, 271  
 Folkard, H. T., papers on Wigan library, 314  
 Formby, T., ladies' reading rooms, 30; notes on Poole's index, 272  
 Foskett, E., statistics, 445  
 Fovargue, H. W., 275, 389  
 Fox, G. E., 384  
 "Foxing," 400  
*Franklin bibliography*, 195  
 Free libraries, Mr. Carnegie on, 71; working men and, 74; and technical

- education, 103; planning of, 120; ventilation, heating and lighting of, 381, 421
- Free Libraries Acts, list of places under, 67, 122; library authorities and future legislation, 123; amendment bill, 1890, 165, 312; discussions on Draft Prize Bill, 166, 387 *et seq.*; compulsory adoption, 396; public library legislation, 454
- Free library movement, progress of, prize essay on, 155; Library Association President on, 366
- Fry, Francis, 96
- GALASHIELS free library, extension, 28
- Galignani's Retreat, 264
- Garnett, Dr. R., colophons of early printers, 125
- Gastronomique, Bibliographie*, 355
- Geddes, David, death of, 72, 377
- Gibbs, H. G., collection of, 158
- Gilbert, J., misleading titles of modern books, 458
- Gladstone, W. E., British Museum regulations, 467; visits Edinburgh libraries, 478
- Gladstone library, 77
- Glasgow, proposed free library, museum, &c., 115
- Glasgow, Mitchell library, new building, 197
- Glasgow, Stirling's library, annual meeting, 197; report, 485
- Glasgow University library, plea for, 195
- Glennie, J. S. Stuart, classification, 36
- Godson, A. F., gift to Kidderminster, 270
- Gray's Inn authorities, L. A. thanks to, 387
- Greenhough, W. H., ventilation, heating, &c., of libraries, 381, 421; Library Association thanks to, 395; statistics, 445
- Greenwich, proposed free library, 479
- Guarantors in free libraries, responsibility of, 155, 272
- Guernsey, Guille-Allès library, report, 485
- Guerrini, O., Bologna University library, 112
- Guilding, J. M., charters of Reading, 381
- Gutenberg früheste Druckerpraxis*, 435
- HAILSTONE, E., death of, 191, 377; bequest to York, 200
- Hales, S., on free libraries, 74
- Halifax public library, report, 167; new premises, 436
- Hall, John, death of, 31, 377
- Hamburg, Mittheilungen aus der Stadtbibliothek zu*, 169
- Hamilton, Lord G., on free libraries, 118
- Hammersmith free library, opening, 199; catalogue, 359; report, 442
- Hampstead proprietary library, report, 117
- Hancock, S. G., 114
- Handsworth free library, proposed extension, 161; report, 361
- Hanley free library, report, 361
- Hardy, W. J., Queen Elizabeth and the Earl of Essex' books, 65
- Harmonies of the Gospels, &c., at Little Gidding, 317
- Harrison, R., thanks of Library Association to Reading Corporation, 394
- Harrogate free library, opening, 117
- Hastings, proposed free library, 69; rejection of Libraries Acts, 161, 197; reference library, 311
- Harvey, C., gift to Barnsley, 114
- Hawarden free library, 198
- Heating of libraries, 381, 421
- Hereford free library, report, 361
- Herring, Paul, Nottinghamshire books, 235, 338
- Herstlet, Sir E., 313
- Heyel, Dr., 464
- Higham Ferrers, proposed library, 437
- Hilcken, G. F., an East End free library, 174
- Holborn, R. M., Library Association rules, 386
- Holborn, proposed adoption of Libraries Acts, 479
- Horwich Mechanics' Institute, 161
- Hoskins, E., *Layman's Prayer Book*, 469
- Hove, proposed adoption of Libraries Acts, 311, 437
- Hull, Bibliography of*, 169
- Hull, Reckitt public library, opening, 29
- Humours of libraries, 265
- Hutton, A. W., a political club library, 77; new size notation, 182
- ICELANDIC MSS. in the British Museum, 469
- Indicators, library, 21, 235
- Incunabula in France, 472
- Infection and free libraries, 272; closing of Plymouth lending library, 164, 443; at Derby, 442
- Inkster, L., how libraries were described 150 years ago, 275; statistics, 446
- Inverness free library, gift of Mr. Carnegie, 437
- Italian bibliography, 73
- JAMES VI., school books of, 352
- James, Miss, the People's Palace library, 235, 341
- Jones, L. Herbert, electric lighting, 383; Library Association Benevolent Fund, 385



- Joynt, W. L., thanks Reading reception committee, 395
- KENSINGTON public library; opening of central library, 29; report, 361; electric light at, 383
- Kidderminster free library, new building, 117, 270
- Kingsley, C., 478
- Kingston-on-Thames free library, 69
- Kirkcaldy, bequest of free library to, 198
- Kirkwall adopts Libraries Acts, 69, 198
- Knapman, J. W., Library Association Benevolent Fund, 385
- Kotzebue documents, 469
- LADIES' reading rooms, 30
- Lambeth free libraries, increased rate rejected, 29; the Minet library, 118
- Lambeth Palace library, 311
- Lancaster, A., public libraries and technical education, 103
- Law, T. G., Library Association thanks to Mr. Greenhough, 395
- Layman's Prayer Book*, 469, 485
- Lectures in free libraries, 71, 107
- Lee and the Libraries Acts, 117
- Leeds public library, discontinues Library Association publications, 117; report, 166; gift of musical library, 356; rejection of increased rate, 437; and subscribers, 439
- Leek, Nicholson Institute, report, 443
- Le Gallienne, R., *Poor Dryasdust*, 173; *Still the old tales*, 465
- Leicester free library, gift of Mr. Dudgeon, 311; report, 361
- Leominster free library, rating difficulty, 311, 478
- Lewisham adopts Libraries Acts, 198, 270, 357, 479
- Librarians and their profession, 373
- Librarianship, 368; as a profession for women, 165
- Librarianship, practical, 111, 156, 232, 275, 446
- Libraries, how described 100 years ago, 275; of Reading, 381
- Library, The*, 1889, 76; and the *Leeds Express*, 117; Chanc. Christie on the value of, 384
- Library appliances, exhibition at Reading, 399
- Library assistants, training of, 30
- Library Association, Dublin, and Plymouth meetings volume, 362, 387
- Library Association, Reading meeting, programme, 315; President's address, 365; account of meeting, 379; report of council, 384, *see also* Supplements; thanks to reception committee and others, 394; absence of practical papers, 467
- Library Association, monthly meetings, 36, 76; special, 123; 172, 203, 445, 488
- Library Association publications, monthly notes, 385, 447
- Library Association, constitution, 385; development of, 375; councillors and rail fares, 386; officers, 1891, 396, *see also* Supplements
- Library Association record, 36 *et seq.*
- Library bureau, proposed, 234, 264, 275, 362, 363, 488
- Library catalogues and reports, 34 *et seq.*
- Library chronicle, 28 *et seq.*
- Library legislation. *See under* Free Libraries Acts
- Library Manual*, proposed, 385
- Library notes and news, 28 *et seq.*
- Lighting, &c., of libraries, 381, 421
- Literary landmarks*, 74
- Literature, ephemeral, 371; of Reading, 401
- Little Gidding, Harmonies of the Gospels made at, 317
- Littlehales, H., *Layman's Prayer Book*, 485
- Liverpool free libraries, damaging books at, 69; lectures at, 107; opening of East branch, 118; Mr. Cowell's lectures, 162; report, 361; electric light at, 382
- Liverpool (proprietary) library, catalogue, 34; annual catalogue, 313
- Livery Companies of London, bibliography of, 301
- Livesey, G., gift to Camberwell, 438
- Local bibliography, 74
- Locella, Bar. G., *Deutschen Dante Literatur*, 113
- London, statistics of free libraries in, 35; East end, 174; Charity Commissioners and free libraries, 230; progress of free library movement, 367, 437
- London, Allan library, additions to, 70
- London, Bank of England library, report, 227
- London, British and Foreign Bible Society and the Fry library, 162
- London, British Medical Association library, 70
- London, Church Association library, 70
- London, Church House library, 199
- London, City Police library, 163
- London, Guildhall library, proposed Sunday opening, 119; British Museum gift, 163; catalogue, 192
- London library, rating appeal, 119; annual meeting, 270
- London, Livery Companies' bibliography, 301
- London, National Liberal club library, account of, 77

- London, People's Palace library, report, 121; Wilkie Collins' memorial library, 199; work of, 235, 341; report, 357
- London, St. Paul's school, library, 312
- Longstaff, Dr., offer to Wandsworth, 71, gift, 439
- Loughton, Lopping Hall library, 200
- Lubbock, Sir J., opens Hammersmith free library, 199; on free libraries, 270
- MACALISTER, J. Y. W., electric light, 383; thanks authorities of Gray's Inn, 387; prize essay, 394; library legislation, 396; compulsory adoption of Libraries Acts, 396, 397
- Macé, Robert, early printer, 15
- MacLachlan, D., 161
- Macray, W. D., thanks Reading Reception Committee, 395
- Madeley, C., secretary of Mersey District, 30: *modes of punishment*, 168; Library Association constitution, 385; Library Association Council, 386
- Magazine rack at Bootle, 156
- Manchester, Chetham library, librarianship, 164
- Manchester free libraries, chairmanship of Committee, 30; lectures, 71, 164; meeting of Mersey district librarians, 272
- Manchester, Home Missionary college, library, 232
- Manchester, library for factory girls, 271
- Manchester, Owen's College library, 200, 439
- Manchu MS., 469
- Mandeville, Sir John, *Book of*, 434
- Mansfield adopts Libraries Acts, 200
- Manuscripts in the British Museum, 33
- Mariller, Mr., 270
- Martin, Sir T., on reading, 466
- Mary, *Queen of Scots*, library of, 32
- Marylebone free library, proposed branch, 119; gift to, 164; free library association, 202; opening of branch, 231; progress, 480
- Mason, T., places of adoption of Libraries Acts, 67, 122; fiction in free libraries, 178; statistics, 445
- May, W., circular of information, 111, 233; book-covers, 272; Library Association monthly notes, 385; on proposed Chairman of Council, 386; thanks to, for indexing, 387
- Medical bibliography, 224
- Melbourne, Victorian railways' library, 228
- Mersey district librarians' meetings, at Oldham, 30; at St. Helens, 165; at Manchester, 272; at Southport, 440
- Merthyr, proposed free library, 439
- Midland district Lib. Association, 235, 481
- Midworth, —, a librarian's duty, 481
- Milman, W. H., the library of Sion College, 55
- Moltke, Max, 470
- Monastic Scriptorium, The, 237, 282
- Montrose periodical literature*, 74
- Moretus, John, 138
- Morrison, Hew, 436
- Mountford, E. W., planning of free libraries, 120
- Mullins, J. D., Library Association constitution, 386; thanks Library Association President, 395
- Murray, J. A. H., *New English dictionary*, 220
- Museums' Association, meeting, 308
- NELSON free library, opening, 30
- Neville, E., death of, 155, 377
- Newark typography, 481
- Newcastle-under-Lyme free library, opening, 439
- Newcastle-upon-Tyne free library, notes on, 164; report, 443; valuable addition, 480
- Newington, proposed adoption of Libraries Acts, 357, 438; acts adopted, 479
- Newman, T., Southport free library, 440
- Newspaper literature, 371
- New Zealand, Wanganui public library, 358
- Northampton as a cycling centre*, 169
- Norwich free library, Sunday opening, 120; report, 443
- Nottingham free libraries, re-opening of central library, 71; patent office gift, 164; notes on, 200, *see also* Supplements; catalogues, 359, 441; report, 443; lectures, 480
- Nottingham Mechanics' Institution, report, 484
- Nottinghamshire books, 235, 338
- OBITUARY, 31, 72, 155, 191, 232, 272, 314
- Ogle, J. J., circular of information, 111; magazine rack, 156; library bureau, 363; Library Association council, 386; discussion on draft Library Bill, 387; thanks to Mr. MacAlister, 396; reading lists, 446
- Oldham free library, Mersey district librarians' meeting at, 30
- Oswestry adopts Libraries Acts, 271
- Overend, G. H., a prince's school books, 352
- Oxford, Bodleian library, report, 159; lending books from, 468
- Oxford English Dictionary*, 220



- Oxford free library, Sunday opening, 120, 271
- PACY, F., 470
- Paddington public library, gift of Mr. P. Edwards, 29; reports, 163, 484; suggested Browning library, 270; work of, 357
- Palmer, W. I., 395
- Pamphlets, preservation of, 81
- Paper, effect of electric light on, 31; brittle quality of, 203
- Parliamentary papers, 81; gifts of, to Dundee, 196; to Nottingham, 200
- Pellechet, M., *Catalogue des incunables*, 472
- Penny rate, libraries with extra powers, 170
- Perkins, Sir F., 30
- Perth, proposed free library, 30
- Peterhead adopts Libraries Acts, 71, 164
- Peterson, Dr. P., death of, 469
- Phillips, Sir T., collection, 161
- Pink, J., circular of Information, 111
- Plague, literature of the, 393, 394
- Plant, J., Mr. Mason's list of free libraries, 122
- Plantin, Christopher, 12, 38, 87, 133; tercentenary at Antwerp, 201
- Playfair, Sir L., books and reading, 332
- Plomer, H. R., Robert Wyer, 275; literature of the plague, 393
- Plumstead rejects Libraries Acts, 271
- Plymouth free library, re-opening of lending library, 164; report, 443
- Political club library, 77
- Politics and the Bilston free library, 160
- Poole's *Index to periodical literature*, 80; note on, 272
- Poor Dryasdust, 173
- Poplar, proposed adoption of Libraries Acts, 270, 358, 479
- Porret, Pierre, 15
- Portsmouth free library, gift to, 120; catalogue, 441; report, 443
- Preston free library, report, 361
- Printers, early, colophons of, 125
- Printing, P. Valdfoghel and, 217; *Scottish Annals of*, 157, 251; Fichet's letter, 273; *Monuments de l'imprimerie en France*, 474
- Prize essay, 155, 394
- Proverbs for library use, 470
- Psalters, polyglot, 89
- Public libraries and technical education, 103
- Publishers, London, Arber's List of*, 273
- Punishment, Obsolete modes of*, 168
- Putney free library, catalogue, 122; report, 361
- RADFORD, J. T., Library Association Council, 386
- Rating of free libraries, penny limit, 170; power to increase at Wigan, 200; difficulty at Leominster, 311; increase at Sheffield, 439; at Warrington, 439; rating assessments on free libraries, 272; meaning of 'ratepayer,' 468; maximum product of rate, 470
- Rawson, H., Library Association thanks, 394, 395
- Readers' book-list, *see* Supplements
- Reading, William, 56
- Reading, Library Association at, 379; Mayor of (Mr. Dodd) thanks President Library Association, 381; chief private libraries of, 381; charters of, 381; literature and writers of, 393, 401; thanks to local executive, &c., 394
- Reading free library, electric light at, 120
- Reading subscription library, catalogue, 483
- Reading, books and, 333; Sir T. Martin on, 466
- Reckitt, J., 29
- Record of bibliography and library literature, 32 *et seq.*
- Reference Books in the British Museum*, 32
- Relton, F., opens Chelsea branch library, 70
- Reprints of old literature, 372
- Rhondda Valley, proposed free library, 30
- Richardson, Miss, librarianship for women, 165
- Richardson, E. C., 482
- Richmond free library, gifts, 30; report, 361
- Ridal, J., readers' book-list, *see* Supplements
- Robertson, A. W., library indicators, 21; a university librarian 250 years ago, 154; popularity of *Robinson Crusoe*, 468; 'chief' librarians, exchanges, 487
- Robinson Crusoe*, reading of, 468
- Rochdale free library, report, 444
- Roe, O., library statistics, 363
- Rogers, W. T., *Manual of bibliography*, 449
- Rosebery, Lord, growth of reading habits, 198; opening Edinburgh free library, 265
- Rosencrantz and Guldenstern, 464
- Rotherham free library, report, 444
- Rotherhithe free library, librarianship, 270; opening, 438
- Rouvier, Dr. J., medical bibliography, 224

- Rugby adopts Libraries Acts, 271, 312.  
 Ruskin Museum, Sheffield, 444
- ST. GEORGE'S, Bloomsbury, proposed free library, 480
- St. George's, Hanover Square, meeting in favour of Libraries Acts, 231; acts adopted, 270; difficulty with vestry, 311; commissioners, 438
- St. Helens free library; chairmanship, 30; technical literature in, 106; new branch, 120; Mersey district librarians at, 165; exhibition of valuable books, 165
- St. Kilda, free library formed at, 232
- St. Martin's-in-the-Fields free library, new building, 119, 163
- St. Marychurch, proposed adoption of Libraries Acts, 71
- St. Marylebone. See Marylebone
- Sale adopts Libraries Acts, 120; library building, 165
- Salem (Mass., U.S.) public library, report, 229; address at opening, 229
- Salford free library, gift to, 358; report, 361
- Salisbury adopts Libraries Acts, 271, 312
- Sayle, C., chain verses, 354
- Schaff, Dr. P., Vatican library, 264
- Schiller-szinessy, Dr., 467
- School-books of a prince, 352
- Scottish Bibliographical Society, 159
- Scottish printing, Annals of*, 157, 251
- Shakespeareana, modern, 277; Rosen-crantz and Guldenstern, 464
- Shakspeare's skull and Falstaff's nose*, 168
- Sharman, J., *Library of Mary Queen of Scots*, 32
- Shaw, G. T., shelf-coverings, 440
- Sheffield free library, increased rating, 439; report, 444
- Shelf-coverings of leather, 440
- Ships' libraries, 31
- Silchester, visit of Library Association to, 384
- Sion college, library of, 55; *order of classification*, 193
- Sittingbourne free library, Queen's gift, 71
- Size notation for modern books, 182
- Smethwick free library, report, 444
- Smiles, R. W., 272
- Smith, R. H. S., death of, 314
- Smith, W. E., the great "She" Bible, 1, 96, 143
- Southampton free library, gift to, 30; report, 444; new building, 481
- Southern, J. W., 30
- South Kensington science and art classes, 109
- Southport free library, meeting of Mersey district librarians, 440; report, 444
- Southwark free library, catalogues, 122, 483; librarianship, 163; extension, 357
- Stalybridge free library, catalogue, 483
- Stanley, Thos., subscription libraries, 439
- State paper catalogue, theory of a, 394
- Statistics, of metropolitan free libraries, 35; methods of increasing, 233; provocative to a discussion on, 258; wanting uniformity of, 314, 363; report on, *see* Supplements; discussion of report on, 445; monthly tabular returns, 75, 124, 171, 204, 236, 276, 316; abstract of library reports, 364, 448
- Still the old tales, 465
- Stockton, proposed free library, 481
- Stoke Newington adopts Libraries Acts, 120; librarianship, 438
- Stoke-upon-Trent free library, reports, 202, 444
- Stonehaven adopts Libraries Acts, 71
- Stratford-on-Avon, Shakespeare memorial library, gift of Indian government, 71; Mr. Flower's gifts, 271.
- Streatham adopts Libraries Acts, 70; building, 271.
- Stroud free library, annual meeting, 439.
- Subjects of the day*, 476
- Subscribers and free libraries, 439.
- Suicide, literature of, 355.
- Sunday opening of libraries, Norwich, 120, 443; Oxford, 120, 271; Battersea, 311; Salford, 361.
- Supplements, practical librarianship, 233.
- Swinton, Berks, free library opened, 201.
- TALFOURD'S *Ion*, 487
- Tasmania, public libraries of, 481
- Tate, Henry, gift to Streatham, 70, 271.
- Taylor, J., the monastic scriptorium, 237, 282; proposes Library Association meeting at Bristol, 387.
- Taylor, Thomas, the Platonist, 245, 292
- Taylor, Dr. Wm., 269
- Technical education, public libraries and, 103
- Tedder, H. R., Library Association Benevolent Fund, 381, 385; electric light, 383; *monthly notes*, 385; thanks to Gray's Inn authorities, 387; compulsory adoption of Libraries Acts, 396
- Thackeray, F. St. J., private libraries of Reading, 381
- Thames, river, Library Association trip on, 397
- Thompson, E. Maunde, presidential address to Library Association, 365; charters of Reading, 381; ventilation of British Museum, 381; elec-



- tric lighting, 384 ; earliest song, 393 ; plague literature, 394 ; thanks to, 395
- Thurso free library, 200
- Timmins, S., library bureau, 275
- Titles, misleading, of modern books, 458
- Toronto University library, 201, 232
- Tottenham rejects Libraries Acts, 70
- Triumpho Stultitiæ, De*, 44
- Troyte, J. E. Acland, Harmonies of the Gospels at Little Gidding, 317
- Tudor Exhibition at the British Museum, 63, 188
- Turner, F. A., 28
- Twickenham free library, report, 362
- Tynemouth free library, report, 362
- UNIVERSITY librarian 250 years ago, 154
- VALADY, Marquis de, 249
- Valdfoghel, Procope, goldsmith and printer, 217
- Vatican library, 264
- Venetian printing press, 473
- Ventilation of libraries, 381, 421
- Versailles public library, incunabula, 472
- Village libraries, proposed, 265
- WAKEFIELD, A., 162
- Wakeling, G., How we built up a burnt library, 172
- Walsall free library, extension, 165
- Walton, W. H., 269
- Wandsworth public library, gifts of Dr. Longstaff, 70, 438 ; local collection, 275
- Warrington library and museum, school of Art at, 108 ; increased rating, 439 ; catalogue, 483
- Watford public library, handbook and reports, 122
- Watson, D., statistics, 314 ; *Library manual*, 385
- Webb, H. Barlow, offer to Hastings, 69
- Wednesbury free library, reports, 202, 362, 445 ; subscription library at, 439
- Welsh, C., bibliography of the Livery Companies of London, 301 ; plague literature, 394 ; thanks Library Association Council, 396
- West Bromwich free libraries, catalogue, 201
- West Ham adopts Libraries Acts, 480
- Westminster free library, report, 362
- Whale, G., public library legislation, 387, 454
- Wheatley, H. B., *How to catalogue a library*, 73
- Whitechapel adopts Libraries Acts, 30
- Whitehaven free library, report, 445
- Wigan free library, rating at, 200 ; reports, 229, 362 ; reference catalogue, 229 ; extension, 312
- Wigan, Industries of*, 486
- Winsor, Prof. J., at Library Association meeting, 381 ; proposes thanks to Reading committee, 394
- Wolverhampton free library, lectures at, 107 ; report, 167
- Wood, Butler, quality of paper, 203
- Woodward, B. B., library bureau, 458
- Woolton adopts Libraries Acts, 165
- Worcester free library, 30
- Working men and public libraries*, 74
- Worlington adopts Libraries Acts, 71
- Wrexham free library, lecture at, 440
- Wright, W. H. K., address at St. Marychurch, 71, Library Association Council meetings, 386 ; thanks to Mr. MacAlister, 396 ; testimonial to, 469
- Writing, monastic, 282
- Wyer, Robert, printer, 275
- York Minster library, Mr. Hailstone's bequest to, 200

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## SUPPLEMENTS.

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*The following supplements have been issued with numbers in the course of the year, and might be bound in the volume.*

- Circular of information concerning the Birkenhead free public library.
- Circular of information concerning the Bootle free library.
- View of the central free public libraries, Nottingham.
- Nottingham children's library, guarantee form.
- Report of Library Association Committee on statistical returns.
- Report of Library Association Council, 1890.
- Officers, council and members of the Library Association.
- Reader's book-list and record, designed by Mr. J. Ridal.





# The Library.

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## The Great "She" Bible.—I.

95

EVERY librarian has heard of the "He"<sup>1</sup> and the "She" Bible. The number of copies to be found both in public and private collections is very large, and the interest of these books, as being the original form of King James' noble version, which we still use, is great, yet certain questions in connection with them remain in obscurity. Even the most fundamental question—*which* is the true original edition—cannot be regarded as completely settled.

I propose in this paper to clear up, so far as I can, the various disputed points, especially in connection with the "She" Bible.

The following are the Black Letter folio editions of the A.V. :

- (1) The "He" Bible, 1611.
- (2) The "She" Bible, 1611 or 1613.
- (3) A smaller type edition, on paper of the same size as the others, with seventy-two lines instead of fifty-nine to the column, 1613.
- (4) 1617.
- (5) 1634.
- (6) 1640.

All of these (excluding No. 3) closely correspond to one another in general appearance, and have been most carefully arranged so that each leaf always ends on the same word. Hence the sheets of all can be intermixed at pleasure, and we often find composite copies. Although in a general way the five editions so nearly correspond, yet on close collation, innumerable differences, chiefly in spelling, chapter initials, use of capitals, division of lines, and not infrequently in actual words, disclose themselves. Only one class of variation, which is developed

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<sup>1</sup> So called from the readings in Ruth iii. 15.

largely in the later editions, does not, as far as I have observed, appear in the Black Letter copies: the use of italics<sup>1</sup> remains constant.

In this paper I shall be mainly concerned with the editions (1) and (2). The "He" Bible is the one which is commonly (and I have no doubt correctly) regarded as the true first edition. It is the one which was so accurately reprinted at Oxford in 1833. Copies are not infrequently met with in booksellers' catalogues, and are to be found in many libraries, as the British Museum, Sion College, the British and Foreign Bible Society, the Bodleian, the Cambridge University Library, &c. It bears the date 1611 both on the Old Testament title page (which exists in two forms, printed and engraved) and also on the New Testament title (which is printed only). It may be at once recognised by the fact that it has the true reading in Ruth iii. 15 (he went into the citie), also by an extraordinary misprint in Exodus xiv. 10, where three lines are printed twice over. This edition I shall for brevity style A.

The "She" Bible has (*in common with almost every other edition*) the reading *she* in Ruth iii. 15; a much more distinctive mark is the reading "Judas" (for Jesus) in Matt. xxvi. 36.

The date on the New Testament title page of this edition is always 1611 (though it may be easily distinguished from that of A by having the words "*Appointed to be read in Churches*," which are wanting in the New Testament title of A). It is probably this circumstance which has caused the "She" Bible to be commonly called the "second issue of 1611." The first title is frequently wanting; when found it is often 1613, sometimes (perhaps) 1611. For brevity I shall refer to the She Bible as BC, or B, or C.<sup>2</sup>

Although these editions are usually called the first and second issues of 1611, yet some writers consider them contemporaneous (*e.g.*, the Rev. J. H. Blunt in the *Encyclopædia Britannica*, viii. 389, speaks of "two contemporary issues of folio volumes, separately composed and printed for the sake of speedy production, in the year 1611"), whilst the Rev. F. H. Scrivener,

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<sup>1</sup> Represented in the Black Letter editions by Roman type.

<sup>2</sup> The reason for this will appear fully hereafter. These Bibles contain a large number of duplicated sheets, which I class as B and C respectively. When I speak of BC Bibles my remark applies to both classes of She Bible, whereas a B Bible or a C Bible means one in which the duplicated sheets are for the most part of the B, or of the C class respectively.

in the very valuable introduction to his Cambridge Paragraph Bible of 1873, strenuously maintains the priority of B, which he considers to have been printed first, and rejected by the translators on account of its inaccuracy in favour of the more carefully revised A edition, but to have been ultimately published, by a kind of fraud on the part of the printers, after the translators were dispersed.

It is not at all clear why these two books should be called *issues* rather than *editions*. They differ considerably in every single page.<sup>1</sup> In the aggregate the variations must amount to many thousands. It is at any rate clear that if BC was printed first A must have undergone large and careful correction. If A was first B has met with some correction, much corruption.

In any case it is hardly possible for two books to have a better claim to the dignity of being considered as separate *editions*, and this irrespective of the vexed question of date.<sup>2</sup>

For the idea of two contemporary issues, both presumably printed from separate copies of the MS., or rather of the corrected Bishops' Bible, there is no shred of proof. The fact already noted that every leaf ends on the same word (and that often by painful contrivance), is conclusive proof that one must have been set up from the other.

But which was first? In this question we have a case of Scrivener against the world; but Scrivener has given such close attention to the matter that we may well pay his theory the compliment of careful consideration.

These are his words: "The question which of the two recensions is the earlier, must be decided partly by external, partly by internal, considerations. The latter will speak for themselves, and it may be taken for granted that no one will doubt the great superiority on the whole of the text of [A]<sup>3</sup> to the other, or hesitate to mark in it many improvements and corrections which betray a later hand, while the instances in which [BC] is superior, or not inferior to the other are scanty, slight and incapable of suggesting the converse inference."

It will be observed that he appears to assume the extra-

<sup>1</sup> Three partial exceptions to this statement will be noted hereafter.

<sup>2</sup> B and C are so closely intertwined that they may properly be classed as two *issues* of one *edition*.

<sup>3</sup> These letters are not used by Scrivener. I substitute them for brevity and clearness for the circumlocutions which he employs. His typical copy of the BC edition is a B copy belonging to the Syndicate of the Pitt Press.



ordinary postulate that printers never make mistakes. This may be true in 1890 (a table is coming, Mr. Printer, which will demand extreme accuracy, so I speak you fair), but it was not the case in 1611. Indeed, given two readings, one clearly superior to the other, it is seldom possible to pronounce, *a priori*, whether the one is a correction or the other a corruption. This will become apparent on considering the special instances which he chooses out of the whole Bible to prove his point. He says, "a few instances are as good as a thousand if only they be unequivocal. We would press Ezek. xlv. 29, where [B] treats the final mem as if it were double; Amos vi. 7, where [A] corrects the wrong number of [B]; but 1 Macc. x. 47 seems conclusive, where [A] deeming 'true peace' too strong a rendering of λόγων εἰρηνικῶν, banished '|| True' into the margin."

In the passage from Ezek. A reads "the trespassse offering," B reads "their trespassse offering." The Hebrew reading is hāāshām; "their trespass offering" would be āshāmām; haa-shamam in Hebrew would be about as impossible as "the their offering" in English, and yet Mr. Scrivener would have us suppose it impossible that "their" is a mere printer's error, and evident that the *translators* made, not a slip of the pen, but a double blunder in their Hebrew (else why the allusion to the *mem*?). Credat Judæus!

The instance from Amos is somewhat similar; here A exactly follows the Bishops' Bible—"the first that goe captiue"; BC reads "goeth captiue." The Hebrew is plain enough, and yet we are to believe that the translators *miscorrected* the Bishops' Bible, and then that clever printer again corrected a reading which has no obvious error in it. Surely it is simpler to suppose that he added a superfluous "th" in the BC edition.

The third instance is of a different kind; here it is plain that the hand of a corrector has been at work, but it is not so clear as Scrivener thinks *which* reading is the correction. The passage runs thus in A: "because hee was the first that entreated of || peace with them," and in the margin "|| True." BC reads "because hee was the first that entreated of true peace with them." In the Greek we read ὅτι αὐτὸς ἐγένετο αὐτοῖς ἀρχηγὸς λόγων εἰρηνικῶν, and in the Latin of Pagninus "qui princeps *veræ* pacis cum ipsis constituendæ fuerat." Obviously this *veræ* is the source of "true" in the English, and both are inserted to prevent a contradiction with verse 3. Scrivener thinks it clear that BC represents the original reading and A the correction. I

should rather suppose that the translators first wrote<sup>1</sup> "peace" and then inserted the word "true," writing it at the side; the printer misinterpreted their *caret*, and put the word in the margin as an anomalous marginal note.<sup>2</sup> The printer of BC, perceiving something unusual, refers to the original MS., and interprets the intention of the translators correctly. I do not put forth this explanation with any confidence, except as a proof of the insecurity of subjective critical judgments. So common is it that what appears to one man perfectly clear, appears to another to admit equally well or better, of a contrary explanation.

It would be easy to quote many instances of variations which point towards the priority of A; I do not, however, care greatly to multiply such passages because I consider the argument a fallacious one; probably any instances which I adduce may be found capable of some different explanation. Scrivener himself refers to Wisdom iii. 14 and Mark vii. 4,<sup>3</sup> as passages which he admits make against his theory. These seem strong instances, since in both of them there is a false arrangement of the margin in A, which is printed correctly in BC. If A was set up from indistinct MS. this might very easily happen, but with much less probability if it was set up from a clear printed copy.

The well-known passages, Exodus xiv. 10, Ruth iii. 15, also supply important indications. In the former A reads three lines twice over; in BC the verse is printed correctly, so BC gets three more lines into the *page* than A; but according to the invariable law this difference is got rid of and the two editions are brought into line by the end of the *leaf*. This is done, partly by very obviously spacing out the words of v. 18 in BC, so as to make it take up five lines instead of four, and partly by allowing an almost unparalleled amount of blank space (*i.e.* the depth of *three* lines instead of *one*), over chapter xv. Now if A was printed first it must have been set up from a corrected Bishops' Bible, in which the pages would run differently,

<sup>1</sup> The Bishops' Bible has an entirely different rendering. It is worthy of note that none of the subsequent editions—not even Mr. Scrivener's own—have followed A in this "correction."

<sup>2</sup> The mark || is *almost* invariably used with *or*, to introduce an alternative rendering. *Very seldom*, as in Wisdom xiv. 21, Ecclesiasticus xx. 13, without *or* to introduce an explanation.

<sup>3</sup> Compare also Jer. xl. 1. Here A and B have an extraordinary confusion in the margin which is corrected in C. Here the proof is peculiarly cogent (though applying only to C), since the marginal note is shifted to the *previous page*.



so that nothing would specially call the printer's attention to his blunder; whilst if BC was printed first we must suppose, that although he had received strict orders to finish every leaf on the same word as his copy, yet when he came to the foot of the page, and found he had three lines too little space, he never looked back to see how he had gone wrong; and we must further suppose that the printer of BC was induced to leave an extraordinary amount of space over chapter xv., by some miraculous prevision of the blunder which his successor was going to make on the previous page.

Ruth iii. 15 is also a strong case. It will be remembered that A reads, "he went into the citie;" B and C read "she." In the printed Hebrew Bible the verb is masculine; in many of the MSS. it is feminine. In the Vulgate, as well as in the Genevan and Bishops' Bibles, the feminine reading is followed. In the Latin of Tremellius (1579) we read "ingressus est." Almost all the subsequent editions of the A.V. read "she." Is it not more probable that *he* was the original reading of the translators, and *she* a mistake, than that their reading was *she*, and that the printer of A corrected it?

One more crucial instance is Exodus xxxviii. 11, where A reads *hoopes* instead of *hookes*. If A was printed from a corrected Bishops' Bible, this mistake might be made naturally enough, since the word *hoopes* occurs more than once in the same passage in that version. In the A.V. the word *hoopes* has given place to *fillets*, so it is, to say the least, an odd coincidence if it re-appeared in a different connection in the same verse, in setting up from an exemplar where the word does not occur at all.

Scrivener attempts to prove the priority of the BC Bible from the fact that it never contains the title-page engraved by Boel, which is found in some copies of the A Bible [also of the smaller 1613 Bible]. The force of this argument is destroyed by the fact that (whatever may be the cause) the engraved title does not appear in any of the subsequent editions.

Feeling strongly the ambiguity of such arguments, I was anxious to rest my proof upon a more solid and comprehensive basis, and this basis I found ready to hand in the following circumstance. On comparing the two editions it will be observed that the large ornamental initials which begin each chapter frequently differ both in design and in size. I have found that in the whole of the A Bible only eight initials occur, which are not to be found in B or C (generally the initials are

in both), whilst in BC I have noted at least thirty-nine which do not occur in A. Surely the natural inference is that A was printed first, and that the printer replenished his stock in the interval.

The new initials which occur in BC are often larger (sometimes smaller) than those of A. This difference of size frequently occasions a variation in the number of lines in the first or second verse of the chapter. In such cases the printer has to use some contrivance to bring his work in line with his "copy" by the end of the leaf. These line-dislocations afford us a cogent proof of the priority of the A Bible. Each line in these large Bibles occupies a depth of about 0.229 inches. This is the case alike with the larger Black Letter type, with the smaller Roman type, in which the chapter headings are printed, and also the capitals in which the topmost chapter heading (as CHAP. III.) is printed. Each column contains fifty-nine such lines (besides the catch-word), but if a chapter begins in the column, the space of an exact number of lines (generally one or two, very rarely three) is left blank above it. The amount of space so left being exactly measured by the depth of a line, lends itself readily to statistical treatment. I have made a careful comparison in this respect of Bibles A, B and C. The differences between B and C were somewhat embarrassing in this comparison, but it seemed likely to give a sufficiently accurate result if I made my comparison between A and both B and C. In most cases a dislocation is found both in B and in C, sometimes in B only, sometimes in C only. I have taken whichever of the two latter had a dislocation in the particular sheet. I think my results would have been substantially the same had I taken either B or C for comparison separately, as the number of chapters where they differ in this respect is not large.

I count 802 chapters from Genesis to Lamentations,<sup>1</sup> with a result which for the sake of clearness I present in a tabular form.

A careful consideration of the following table will show clearly how much better the facts there collected agree with the hypothesis of the priority of A, than of BC.

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<sup>1</sup> One or two chapters are left out of count because they were so anomalous that they could not be classified. The count ceases with Lamentations, because very few dislocations are to be found later.

		Number and percentage of Chapters with			
		2-line space.		1-line space.	
		No.	percent.	No.	percent.
(1) In the whole 802 chapters.	In A	411	51.25	391	48.75
"      "      "	In BC	340	42.4	462	57.6
(2) In cases where BC has a larger initial than A.	In A	99	71.74	39	28.26
"      "      "      "      "	In BC	9	6.57	128	93.43
(3) In cases where A has a larger initial than BC.	In A	4	20	16	80
"      "      "      "      "	In BC	7	35	13	65

(1) is intended to supply a standard of comparison for either hypothesis. In (2), which represents the more usual kind of dislocation, if we assume A to have been first, we find that the printer of BC has (as we might expect) chosen for larger initials a somewhat large number of chapters where the two-line space gives him plenty of room, and that in most of these cases he has contracted the space to one line. If we suppose BC to have been first printed and A set up from it, with a large number of smaller initials, it is curious that so many as 93 per cent. of the chapters chosen for these smaller initials should have had the one-line space. This could only be accounted for by supposing the A printer used smaller initials only when he was hard pressed for space; but if so, how extraordinary that in 71 per cent. of these cases A ends by having a two-line space!

Then turning to (3) which represents the less usual kind of dislocation, assuming A to have been first printed, it is natural enough that the large majority (80 per cent.) of the cases where BC introduces a smaller initial should be chapters where the printer was pressed for want of space, and that, in most of these cases, the space should remain narrow in A. Reverse the supposition, and we have the incredible result that the A printer setting up from BC chose for enlarged initials almost twice as many chapters with narrow space as with wide space; note also that in the seven cases where (on this supposition) A introduced a larger initial at a broad space, it has only in three cases adopted the obvious expedient of contracting the space. Contrast the numbers here (35 per cent. and 20 per cent.) with those in the converse case on the other supposition (71 per cent. and 6 per cent.). Although the above reasoning requires some attention to appreciate, it is to my mind conclusive as to the priority of A.



Having considered the internal evidence as to the priority of A and BC respectively, I will now state the evidence which I have collected as to the printed date on the Old Testament title. Although Fry,<sup>2</sup> like other writers, calls BC the second issue of 1611 (probably on account of the New Testament title), he mentions that twelve out of the forty-five BC Bibles which he had examined, had the title and follower of 1613 or one of them. He does not say how many had the title or follower of 1611, but he quotes Mr. James Lenox of New York, who says, "I have never seen a woodcut title-page with the date 1611 in any copies of [B] which did not agree with 1613, and upon examination I became satisfied that the date had been changed from 1613 to 1611. I have seen many with this alteration, sometimes badly done and sometimes almost defying detection." Fry gives the following as tests to distinguish the follower, *i.e.*, the second and third pages of the preface, which are printed on one sheet with the title. This is a matter of importance, as the follower is often present when the title is wanting.

"1611 1st issue."	<i>new</i>	Eccles. 1. 9.	
	<i>and</i>	Acts 7. 51.	
	<i>off-</i>		

"1611 2nd issue."	<i>new</i>	Eccles. 1. 9.	
	<i>and</i>	Acts 7. 51.	
	<i>off-</i>		

"1613."	<i>new</i>	Eccles. 1. 9.	
	<i>and</i>	Acts 7. 51.	

For more exact representations of the above see Fry's *Description of the Great Bible*, &c. Plate 37, Figures 10, 11, 12.

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<sup>2</sup> See *A Description of the Great Bible, 1539 . . . also of the editions, in large folio, of the Authorised Version of the Holy Scriptures, printed in the years 1611, 1613, 1617, 1634, 1640, by the late Francis Fry, F.S.A. (1865).*

I do not know with what authority he connects the second of these with the date 1611. At any rate it occurs in a fine and complete copy of the 1613 (smaller type) Bible belonging to the church of Thurlton in Norfolk.

The following is a list of all the BC Bibles with first titles which have come under my notice.

## 1611.

(1) A copy in the British Museum 1276 L4 (mostly B, but rather mixed). This book belonged to Lea Wilson. It has the woodcut title of 1611. An anecdote told by Fry (page 27) in reference to Lea Wilson's treatment of another Bible shows how little this copy is to be trusted. If a fine Bible came into his hand wanting a title-page, he would not have hesitated to procure and insert one of the supposed date (*i.e.*, the New Testament date).

(2) There is a copy in the Euing Collection at the Glasgow University, (c) which has a woodcut title with the date 1611, but a note written by Fry asserts this date to be *altered* from 1613.

## 1613.

The following copies all have woodcut first titles with the date 1613.

(1) Oriel College, Oxford (c).

(2) All Souls' College, Oxford (B).

(3) Jesus College, Cambridge (B). A very perfect copy. At the back of the 1613 title is a college bookplate dated 1700.

(4) Christ's College, Cambridge (B).

(5) A friend has a copy (B). On the back of the 1613 title is a large imprint "Liber Societatis Templorum Anno Dom. MDCXXIIII." There is a similar imprint on the back of the 1611 New Testament title.

(6) A copy (c) lately acquired by the British Museum (3051 g 11). This book is complete throughout. The 1613 title-page is undoubtedly continuous with the follower, for I saw it whilst it was under the binder's hands and had this sheet detached.

(7) A fine B copy of my own (S26).

(8) A B copy recently on sale at Messrs. Bull and Auvache's, which has been acquired for the British Museum.

In the face of all this evidence it is inconceivable that the

1613 title-pages have been taken out of the small type 1613 edition to make up imperfect copies of a 1611 edition, and surely equally inconceivable that the books were *issued* in 1611 with a 1613 title-page. It may be that they were in great part printed (including the N.T. title-page) in 1611; but if so the publication must have been, for some reason, greatly delayed, so that they were issued in 1613, about the same time as the smaller folio. This I infer from the manner in which their title-pages and preliminary matter seem mixed with that edition. The remarkable duplication of the sheets in the BC Bible, to which I have already alluded (see note 3), and which I shall hereafter describe in detail, seems to suggest some catastrophe, such as the burning of a quantity of the sheets. It may be that some accident of this kind caused the production to be set aside for a long period, and thus the printing of the smaller 1613 edition may have intervened. At any rate, the old habit of referring to this Bible as the "second issue of 1611" ought to be abandoned. It may perhaps be safest to quote it as the "1613-1611 edition." This will distinguish it equally from the A Bible of 1611, and from the small type folio of 1613.

*Corton, Lowestoft.*

WALTER E. SMITH.

*(To be continued.)*





## Christopher Plantin.

### I.

“Of all the printers whose works have ever adorned the literary republic, none, I think, stand upon so broad and lofty a pedestal as Christopher Plantin. Jenson and Robert Stephen had equal elegance and Aldus and Froben equal zeal and learning; but take his smaller and his larger works together—his pocket Latin Bible and his Polyglot Bible—and “you will hardly find anything to approach, certainly nothing to excel, them.”—DIBDIN, *Bibliographical Decameron*, vol. ii. pp. 144-151.

*Près de Tours en Touraine a prins mon corps naissance,  
J'ay vescu quelques ans dans la ville d'Anvers,  
A Leyden maintenant; mon nom par l'univers  
Est assés estendu par Labeur et Constance.*

FROM these lines, the youthful production of his grandson François Raphelengien, it appears that Christopher Plantin was a native, if not of Tours itself, yet at all events of Touraine, and two villages in that province lay claim to having been the birthplace of the future illustrious typographer—Mont Louis and Saint Avertin. Both are within a short distance of Tours, and both have their supporters—the older writers, such as Maittaire and Foppens, being in favour of Mont Louis, whilst more modern researches tend to show that Saint Avertin has a better claim to the distinction. This little place is on the river Cher, about three miles from Tours, and its parish registers for the years 1580 and 1584 (none are in existence of earlier date than 1574) mention the baptism of several children whose parents bore the name of Plantin, thus affording good ground for believing that Christopher himself was here born and here spent those years of childhood of which no record has come down to us.

But whatever doubt there may be as to the place of his birth, there is at least no uncertainty as to the year, which must have been 1514, as we learn from the epitaph in the cathedral at Antwerp, composed by Justus Lipsius, that Plantin died in 1589, aged seventy-five.

Little is known of Plantin's parents, but sufficient to prove the falseness of the account fabricated by some of his later descendants that he was of noble, or at least, gentle descent. Their story is briefly as follows: that Plantin's father, Charles

de Tiercelin, Seigneur de la Roche du Main, was an officer in the royal army who, after seeing considerable service, was taken prisoner, first at Pavia, and again at St. Quintin, dying at Chitré, near Chastelheraud, in 1567, in his eighty-sixth year, and leaving his family in poor circumstances. Two of his sons, of whom Christopher was one, betook themselves to Normandy, and assuming respectively the names of Plantin and Porret from two plants (*plantain* and *porrée*), on which they accidentally trod, settled at Caen—one as an apothecary, the other as apprentice to a bookbinder. Here the latter—Christopher—met and married Jeanne Rivière from the neighbouring village of Saint Barbère, and leaving Caen, he and his wife moved to Antwerp and set up a small shop for the combined sale of books and linen goods, finding a firm friend in Alexander Grapheus, *greffier* of Antwerp. Shortly after this Plantin met with the adventure (to be related further on) which was to change his mode of life entirely, and be the cause of those magnificent typographical productions which were to make his name illustrious for all time.

The credibility of this circumstantial narrative is much impaired by the fact that none of the sons of Charles de Tiercelin bore the names ascribed to Plantin and his so-called brother, and by the existence of a letter to Plantin from Pierre Porret himself. This letter, which is dated Paris, March 25th, 1567, informs us that at an interview the writer had lately had with the Chevalier d'Angoulême, the latter had asked him for some particulars respecting the early life of Plantin, and that he, Porret, had given him the following account of the origin of the intimacy between them.

Plantin's father had been in the service of Pierre's uncle Claude Porret, *obéancier* of the church of St. Just at Lyons, who died in 1548, having during his lifetime resigned the office of *obéancier* to two of his nephews in succession, they being canons of the said church. Whilst Plantin was still very young, an outbreak of the plague carried off many of his family, including his mother, and his father consequently brought him to the house of Claude Porret at Lyons. Here was also living the young Pierre Porret, a prime favourite apparently with the elder Plantin, who, in his capacity of major-domo, was able to indulge the boy by the bestowal of many little tit-bits dear to boyish tastes. So firm a friendship sprung up between them that they were accustomed to call each other "father" and "son." The little Christopher was included in this alliance,

and the affection the boys bore for each other was so strong that they looked on themselves as brothers not only in these youthful days, but during all the rest of their lives.

Plantin's father continued in the service of Claude Porret and his nephew Pierre Puppier, at Lyons, Orleans and Paris successively, and on Puppier's appointment to the canonry of St. Just, at Lyons, the elder Plantin accompanied him to that town, leaving his son to pursue his studies at Paris, and intending afterwards to take the boy with him to Toulouse. This plan however was not carried out, and Christopher eventually betook himself to Caen and there entered the shop of a bookseller, his friend Pierre Porret becoming apprentice to an apothecary in the same town. After Plantin's marriage they returned together to Paris, where they remained till 1548 or 1549, when Plantin and his family took their departure for Antwerp.

This narrative of Porret, Plantin's intimate and life-long friend, disposes once for all of the groundless statements of the great printer's descendants regarding his noble origin—statements which were gravely made even so early as 1606, and even by Balthazar Moretus, Plantin's grandson, in a request preferred by him to the Bishop and Canons of Antwerp on behalf of his brother Melchior.

On the opening by Plantin of an establishment in Paris, in 1567, he intrusted the management of it to Porret and appointed him his agent in the conduct of all business transactions with that city and France in general. The brotherly affection subsisting between the two friends continued uninterruptedly throughout their lives, and the same kindly feeling was maintained by their descendants after their death.

We have no details of Plantin's early life and education, but he appears to have become well acquainted with Latin, and to have formed a permanent taste for literature in general. Although he never felt equal to producing original works of his own of any importance, yet several of the books issued from his press contain prefatory notices and verses by him, such for instance as *La première et la seconde partie des Dialogues François pour les jeunes enfans*, in which he says,

*Oncques ie n'eu l'aisance,  
Le temps, ne la puissance ;  
Comme j'ay eu le cœur ;  
De vacquer à l'étude,  
Tousiours Ingratitude  
A dérobé mon heur.*



*L'auteur des vers ne m'a donné pouuoir  
De caresser les filles de Memoire.  
Cela voyant, j'ay le mestier éleu  
Qui m'a nourri en liant des volumes.*

*Ainsi ne pouuant estre  
Poete, ecrivain ne maistre  
J'ay voulu poursuivre  
Le trac, chemin, ou trace,  
Par où leur bonne grace  
Je pourrois acquerir.*

Although Plantin himself seems to have wished that he had been able to supply the press with writings of his own instead of merely reproducing those of others, yet we can scarcely share in his regret, and his fame probably rests on a surer foundation as a printer than he would ever have laid for himself as an author.

The letter of Pierre Porret above alluded to does not inform us of the precise date of the arrival of himself and Plantin at Caen, but it was probably somewhere about the year 1535, and we may picture to ourselves the two friends, setting out with all the high hopes and spirits of youth from the gates of Paris, and turning their steps westwards towards the romantic land of Normandy—so full of fascination for adventurous hearts like theirs; or embarking, perhaps, on some boat bound for Rouen and sailing down the Seine, loveliest of all the lovely streams of France, their eager eyes quick to seize on all the varied beauties of its banks—abbey and castle, their walls grey with age even in that day; gleaming villages, rich cornfields, and orchards with their wealth of fruit, ruddy and golden in the unclouded sun. Whatever their mode of travelling, and whatever route they adopted, all must have been new and interesting on the way till they finally reached the old Norman town, to which one, at least, of the two lads was to owe so much, and wherein he was to receive a training destined to be put to such noble use in after years.

Of Plantin's life at Caen scarce any record remains. He appears to have entered the service of the printer, Robert Macé the younger, and about ten years after his arrival to have married Jeanne Rivière, a native of the neighbouring village of St. Barbère. Little is known of her or her family, but she seems to have had a brother living at Antwerp after she and her husband moved thither, and a certain Guillaume Rivière, pro-

bably another relative, was employed as a printer in Plantin's establishment from 1569 to 1591, in which latter year he left Antwerp and set up a press of his own at Arras.

Shortly after their marriage Plantin and his wife quitted Caen for Paris, where in 1547 was born their eldest child Marguerite, afterwards wife of François Raphelingien. But neither country town nor capital of his native land seems to have held out to Plantin much prospect of success in life, and from France he turned his eyes towards the Low Countries, whose prosperity was as yet untouched by the blighting policy and persecution of their future intolerant sovereign, and where Antwerp, then in all the meridian glow of her splendour, her river crowded with shipping, her warehouses filled with the choicest products of a world-wide commerce, seemed to promise to a spirit as enterprising and determined as Plantin's the realisation of those dreams of wealth and fame which had doubtless been ever present to him during all the past years of earnest preparation for the great work he was now to take in hand.

## II.

In the year 1550 Plantin became a member of the Guild of St. Luke in Antwerp, and was admitted to the rights of citizenship; but though enrolled as a printer he first of all turned his attention to bookbinding, and from the fact of his being entrusted by the civic authorities with the binding of various public records, we gather that he was looked upon as an efficient and trustworthy workman. To the calling of binder he united that of dealer in books and engravings, and by this means doubtless acquired an amount of practical knowledge of everything connected with the production and sale of books which was to stand him in good stead in future years.

Whether Plantin would have continued all his life a skilful worker in leather merely, or whether from the very beginning of his career he cherished the design of some day rendering himself illustrious as one of the greatest masters of the typographic art, must ever remain matter of uncertainty, though there is little doubt that a man of his shrewd brain and indomitable energy would not have been content to rest undistinguished in any calling to which he devoted that *Labor* and *Constantia* which were part and parcel of his very nature.

But whatever thoughts of future fame may have passed through Plantin's mind, it seems that both he and his family



ascribed to the effects of the nocturnal adventure, already alluded to, the prime motive of his giving up all other pursuits and devoting himself thenceforth to the art of printing only. The adventure in question is thus related by Balthazar Moretus, Plantin's grandson.

"When the late Christopher Plantin arrived in Antwerp from France in 1549, he first of all occupied himself with book-binding and the making of boxes and caskets, which he covered with leather and gilded, inlaying them with small pieces of different coloured leather with marvellous skill. In this latter art, as well as in binding, he had no equal either in Antwerp or in all the Low Countries. By these means he made himself known to both Mercury and the Muses; that is, to both men of trade and men of learning, who on their way to and from the Exchange could not fail to notice the handiwork of Plantin, dwelling, as he did, in a house close by that place of public resort. The learned men bought of him beautifully bound books, and the merchants purchased caskets or other costly articles which he either made himself or imported from France. After he had carried on this business for some years with profit and success, Don Gabriel de Qayas, Secretary to King Philip II. of Spain, became acquainted with this man of surprising talent and conceived a great affection for him, and having on a certain occasion to send to the Queen of Spain a precious stone of great value, he caused a box to be made by Plantin to contain the same. Some days later Don Qayas sent to Plantin begging him to finish the box and bring it that very evening, inasmuch as the courier leaving at high tide next morning was to take it with him to Spain. Plantin, anxious to comply with this request, himself went forth at nightfall carrying the casket under his arm and preceded by a servant bearing a lantern. Scarce had he quitted his house near the Exchange in the street leading to the Pont de Mer, a part of Antwerp much frequented, and where may now be seen an image of our Lord upon the cross, than he encountered some men, drunk and wearing masks, in search of a certain player on the cithern who had passed I know not what jests and gibes upon them. Seeing Plantin with his casket they fancied they had found their man (who himself had been carrying a cithern under his arm) and one of them instantly drew his sword and set off in pursuit. Plantin, all surprised, sought for some place of refuge, put down his casket, and at the same moment felt himself run

through by the weapon of his rascally assailant. The wound was so severe and the sword had penetrated so deeply, that the villain could scarce withdraw it. Plantin, a noble model of firmness and forbearance, calmly said to the fellows, 'Gentlemen, you are mistaken; what wrong have I done you?' They, hearing him speak thus gently, at once took to their heels, crying out as they went that they had been deceived. Plantin returned home, ill and half-dead. A celebrated surgeon of that day, Johannes Farinalius, and a no less celebrated physician, Johannes Goropius Becanus, were summoned. They both despaired of saving the wounded man's life, but God, contrary to all expectation, preserved him for the public good and enabled him gradually to recover. In the end, however, feeling himself incapable of work requiring much movement and bending of the body, he determined to devote himself to typography, an art which he had often seen practised and had himself practised in France. Having therefore ordered his workshop with that clear judgment which ever characterized him, he managed it with such skill and talent that, God helping him, the first products of his press were admired not only in Belgium, but throughout the whole world."

This account of Balthazar Moretus was written in 1604, fifteen years only after his grandfather's death, and in the lifetime of his father, John Moretus, Plantin's friend and partner for two and thirty years. Its authenticity is still further supported by the testimony of the great printer himself who, in his verses prefixed to the *Dialogues François pour les jeunes enfans*, says,

*Vray est que de nature  
J'ay aimé l'écriture  
Des mots sententieux :  
Mais l'Alciate pierre  
M'a retenu en terre,  
Pour ne voler aux cieux.  
Cela voyant, j'ay le mestier éleu,  
Qui m'a nourri en liant des volumes.  
L'estoc receu puis après m'a émeu  
De les écrire à la presse sans plumes.*

Although Plantin continued his bookbinding for some two or three years after this mishap, yet he made it quite a secondary business, and it is as a printer that we have henceforward to regard him, the first-fruits of his press appearing in the spring of 1555 in the shape of a little book (now excessively rare) in



French and Italian, entitled *La institutione di una fanciulla nata nobilmente. L'institution d'une fille de noble maison ; traduite de langue Tuscanne en François*. Of this Plantin printed one copy of special taste and splendour as a present to Gérard Grammay, Receiver of Antwerp, with the following dedication, assuredly one of the most beautifully worded that printer or author ever penned :—  
*Suivant la coustume d'un jardinier ou laboureur qui, pour singulier présent, offre à son signeur les premières fleurs des jeunes plantes de son jardin ou métairie, je vous présente (Monsieur) cestuy premier bourjon sortant du jardin de mon imprimerie, vous suppliant de telle humanité, à vous accoustumée, le recevoir, comme il vous est de bon cœur présenté. Ce que faisant m'inciterez (si avec le temps m'est donné la puissance) à mettre en avant chose de plus grande importance sous la faveur et protection de vostre Seigneurie, laquelle nous vueille Dieu conserver, et tousjous augmenter en grand profit, et utilité du bien public. D'Anvers, le 4 de May, 1555.*

Many and lovely indeed were the flowers destined to bloom in the garden of Christopher Plantin, but none more attractive than this spring violet of the “maiden nobly born,” which now forms one of the choicest treasures of the great Paris library,

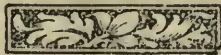
During the forty years Plantin lived in Antwerp he occupied several different houses, and the present Musée Plantin-Moretus is not that in which were printed his earliest works. On his first arrival in 1549 he appears to have settled in the Rue Lombarte Veste, situated in the Kammerstrate—the quarter inhabited almost exclusively by booksellers, printers and others of kindred occupation, and which may be identified with the present Rue des Douze-Mois. Several of his earliest productions bear the imprint *près la Bourse neuve*, confirmatory of this locality. Here he remained till 1557, when he moved to the sign of the *Licorne d'Or* (afterwards called the *Compas d'Or*), also in the Kammerstrate quarter, which he continued to occupy till the year 1564, when his partnership with the Bombergs and others necessitated a move to larger premises. These latter comprised the *Grand Faucon*, the *Petit Faucon* and the *Ciseau*, all of which were in the Kammerstrate district and adjoining each other. The *Grand Faucon* had formerly been the residence of his friend Jean Bellere, and was now, under its new name of the *Compas d'Or*, to be Plantin's home for the next twelve years. The two smaller houses were not purchased by him till 1565.

In 1576 took place the last move. Between the Rue Haute, the Rue du St. Esprit and the Marché du Vendredi, was a large

house with a spacious court and garden bearing the whimsical name of *Het Oorcussen op den Cordewaghen*, *The Pillow and Wheelbarrow*, and belonging to one Martin Lopez, a Spanish merchant, who, on selling it, divided the property into two parts—Plantin becoming the possessor of that portion facing the *Marché du Vendredi*, and still existing as the present *Musée Plantin-Moretus*. To this new acquisition Plantin made extensive additions, and faithful to his old device, bestowed on it the familiar name of the *Golden Compass*. Still retaining the *Kammerstrate* house as a shop, he moved his presses to the *Marché du Vendredi*, but was compelled, partly by the smaller space at his command, partly by the political disturbances of the time and consequent commercial depression, to make a considerable reduction in their number.

With the exception of an absence of two years, 1583-5, at Leyden, Plantin spent the remainder of his life at this, to us, the most interesting of all his various homes; and as we now pace its venerable court and cloister, from whose walls, covered with the vine planted possibly by the great printer's own hands, the busts of his descendants gaze silently upon us; or, as we wander through the rooms once filled with busy workmen, or pause to muse awhile in the antique chambers where we are surrounded by so many memorials of the days when all was life and activity within them, we almost expect to see the master himself enter and show us some of the noble volumes which have made his name dear to us.

*(To be continued.)*



## On Library Indicators, with Special Reference to the "Duplex Indicator."

THE question of how best to indicate and register the issue of books in public lending libraries, has been agitated among the librarians of this country, more especially, since the very first days of public libraries, and the result has been the production of several mechanical devices, diverse in form and of varied success. In itself this is sufficient proof of the importance of the subject, and if any further were needed it will be found in the daily experience of every one who has charge of a large public lending library. For him it is an every-day problem of dire necessity and difficulty—how shall I register the issue and return of books so as to secure the maximum of accuracy with the maximum of speed, and how shall I do this and at the same time facilitate the use of the books by my library borrowers? This point of book issue and register, in fact, is the one in library administration at which the small body ruling within the library counters comes to close quarters with the eager, vigilant, and often clamorous multitude outside, and if all goes well there in a library happy is the state of that library. To the ordinary lay mind nothing seems simpler than to hand out a book which the borrower knows is on the shelf, in exchange for his ticket. But if, while you do this with an expedition which keeps up the delusion, you also make him feel that he is in the grip of an inexorable and infallible machine—why then he comes to entertain towards you a feeling, if not of reverence, at least of wholesome awe. Of course it is of the essence of the whole business that the operation, of whatever form, shall be accurate and sure. Once let a borrower feel that it is possible for him to be charged with a book which he has *not* borrowed, or to be called upon to pay a fine which he has *not* incurred; or perhaps what is little less disastrous, that he may sometimes escape a penalty for which he is justly liable, and straightway you know virtue has gone out of you, and your hold of that borrower in particular, and of other borrowers also, is visibly weakened.

To produce an organ of this kind, varied in compass and certain in result, could hardly be the work of any one mind. It was bound to be the outcome of the thought of many minds and



of much experiment and experience. In this connection, it is pleasing to be able to recognise the valuable work already accomplished, the several doers of which are entitled to the warmest gratitude of librarians. Something yet remains to be done, however; and whether or not that something is in any degree overtaken by what has been done in the Aberdeen Public Library, some explanation of the plan in operation there may have an interest and value for other libraries.

Before entering upon an account of this however, it will be well to state, as briefly as possible, the two or three qualifications which would seem to be indispensable in any properly-constructed indicator.

First of all, then, an indicator, as its name implies, should show unmistakably whether a book is in or out, and that immediately and without regard to the fact that, in the case of a book just returned, it has not yet been put away on the shelf. If with this indispensable intimation of a book being issuable to a borrower, its title in legible and intelligible terms can also be indicated, then undoubtedly the usefulness and popularity of the indicator are greatly enhanced.

In the second place, an indicator should not only show with regard to any particular book, both who has it out at any particular time, and also who have had it out in the past, but it should also show with regard to any particular borrower both what book he has out at the moment, and what books he has had out before. This implies a double record, one with regard to the book and one with regard to the borrower, the former of which at least should never leave the library.

In the third place, with regard to the all-important matter of recording the date of issue of a book, and of ascertaining how long it has been out of the library, it is desirable that the process should as far as possible be a mechanical one, so that the proverbial liability of man to err, from which not even librarians, to say nothing of their assistants, are excluded, may be reduced to a minimum and practically extinguished.

Now besides the three requisites just mentioned, there are some others which will naturally be looked for in any proper indicator. But they are subordinate in value, and are moreover such as will naturally find a more or less satisfactory solution in the process of solving the three problems named. These then may be regarded as the cardinal ones of the case. How they have been dealt with in the "Duplex Indicator" I shall now proceed briefly to explain.

First of all then, the indicator is so constructed that each compartment of it accommodates a block of wood, 4 by  $2\frac{1}{2}$  by  $\frac{3}{8}$  inches, one for each book in the library issuable to the public. This block is covered with paper ruled so as to be capable of recording fifty issues. On one end there is affixed a printed title, indicating plainly and intelligibly the author and subject matter of the book, and the shelf number at one corner. The other end is blank except that it also shows the shelf number, but at the opposite corner. The idea with regard to each block is that it shall be as the *alter ego* of some one book belonging to the library, and for this reason, in addition to its title, it bears on the flat top surface its shelf number in full, its class letter, and its accession number, this last by a reference to the library stock book giving the whole history of the book since it was incorporated in the library.

So much for the books. Now for the borrowers. To each of these, on joining the library, is given a library ticket. This ticket bears on its surface all the information with regard to the borrower usually required—his name, address, ticket number, date of expiry of ticket, &c.

Now let us suppose the case of a borrower wishing to take out a book. He has gone to the indicator and by the aid of the titles shown he has selected a book to his taste, the number of which book he quotes as he presents his ticket at the library counter. The library assistant, with the ticket in his hand, goes off to the proper shelf, passing on his way the indicator belonging to it, and as he passes he pulls out the block corresponding to the book asked for. With this block in his hand, bearing the shelf number and title to remind him of the book wanted, he removes the latter from the shelf, and having handed it to the borrower at the counter, *who is then at once free to depart*, he registers the number of the borrower's ticket on the book block, and deposits ticket and block together in a tray at his hand. At the moment of issue, therefore, the assistant has to go through one, and only one, operation of recording. Even this one could be dispensed with; but as its performance takes up an inappreciably small amount of time, while by fixing the connection between borrower and book borrowed at the moment the connection is made, it greatly promotes accuracy and trustworthiness of record, it seems labour well spent. Next let it be supposed that the operation just described is repeated 500 times, and that it covers the entire issues at one counter for



one day. The result so far is two or three trays containing 500 blocks, representing as many books, alternating with 500 tickets representing as many borrowers, and each block bears the number of the ticket next it. The operation of completing the register as between the library and the borrower may now be proceeded with. This is done as follows: Placing before him a small register, which is just an indicator on a very reduced scale, with its compartments numbered consecutively from 1 to 500, and having at the top a number corresponding to the date of the day's issues, the assistant first of all marks on the borrower's ticket the number of the book borrowed by him, this being the converse operation of that done at the counter at the moment of issue. He then pops the ticket into a compartment of the small register, and as he does so he marks on the book block the number of that compartment and also the date of the register. This series of operations is repeated on every succeeding block and ticket, and as the last ticket is placed in the small register, the number opposite indicates the total number of the issues for the day. This register of borrowers' tickets is a novel feature of the "Duplex Indicator," and plays a very important part in its working. It is, as already said, provided with a slide for the purpose of showing clearly the date of the particular day's issues recorded in it. The tickets once in it are during the subsequent fortnight never touched except to be taken out and given to the borrower when he returns his book. Twelve such registers, one for each day, contain the register of tickets received in exchange for books issued during a fortnight, and as they are arranged in date order, the last of the series has the latest day's issues, while the first contains the tickets of borrowers who took out books exactly a fortnight ago, and having failed to return them on the last day of grace, assuming a fortnight to be the term, are now liable for a fine for detention of books. Before proceeding to show how these first-fortnight offenders, and others of a still older date are dealt with, it may be well to glance at what takes place when a book is returned by a borrower. Before this can happen—as soon in fact as the register of a day's issues is made up as described above—the book blocks are reinserted in the indicator from which they were taken, but whereas formerly the title was shown to the public, it is now turned towards the library staff and a blank shown to the public, indicating to them that the book is out. When a borrower hands in any of the

books thus shown out, the shelf number of that book directs the library assistant to the corresponding block in the indicator. Pulling out this block, and reversing it to show to the public that it has just come in, he notes the date and issue number of the last entry—the 201st of the 11th inst. let it be supposed—and is by that fact directed to the register for the 11th December, *just opposite the indicator*, from which taking the ticket in the 201st compartment he hands it to the borrower at the counter and the operation is completed, and completed without the library assistant having to trouble himself about the question of detention or fine, when neither the one nor the other has been incurred.

Reverting now to the point at which the borrowers of any particular date, having failed to return their book within a fortnight, have just become liable to a fine of one penny, let us see what takes place. The original register of 500, which was assumed for the sake of argument, has by the return of books during the fortnight been considerably thinned out, so that there are now at the end of it fifty, or even fewer, tickets left scattered over the register. In our unwillingness to run any risk by handling these fifty tickets and breaking the bond originally formed between the register and the tickets, we might leave the latter undisturbed in the register for yet another fortnight; but as it would be inconvenient to have so many as four weeks' registers of the original size going on, it seems preferable to lift out the fifty "overdue" tickets and place them in a single column register, measuring fifteen inches high by nearly two broad, giving to this column the date of the original register, and also giving to each ticket in it the number which it bore in that original register. This being done, the column is placed alongside of eleven other similar columns, which all slide along on a rod in a groove, and together make up a complete register for another fortnight, one for each day. The tickets in these are all overdue tickets, but in the first six they are only one week overdue, while in the second six they are two weeks overdue, and of course the last column of the one week register of to-day becomes the first column of the two weeks' register to-morrow, and the fine on every ticket left in it then will become twopence. At the end of yet another week, should any tickets still remain in the column, their presence is an intimation to the librarian that the borrowers have had their books out more than a month, and that they have incurred a penalty of threepence. For such cases vigorous measures



are required, and accordingly in Aberdeen, the very first day that a ticket gets into the three weeks' overdue category, a post-card is sent to the borrower calling in the book, and letting him know that he has incurred a fine of fourpence, that is to say, threepence for detention and one penny to cover cost of postage. If the effect of this summons is not what it should be, the librarian is kept continually in mind of the fact by seeing the tickets still remaining in the register, and can act accordingly.

Such, then, is the structure and *modus operandi* of what I have called the "Duplex Indicator." As with most mechanical devices, its merits are difficult to explain in writing, and especially from any such attempt it must seem a much more complicated matter than it really is. One or two practical exhibitions, however, would suffice to dispel much of this idea, and reveal instead its simplicity, speed and accuracy. To its other and more special merits I can only briefly allude. It dispenses with day sheets, or any other kind of sheets, and yet embodies in its system of working all their accuracy and security at the cost of much less time and trouble. Of any book in the library it gives the issue-record for an indefinite period; and similarly of any borrower, provided his ticket is lying in the library in exchange for a book out. And of this double record the truth is confirmed, and the error, should any error creep in, is detected by the fact that the two parts of the indicator are *quite apart from each other*, and support or check each other.

In the next place the "Duplex Indicator" shows, as perhaps no other shows: (1) whenever a ticket becomes overdue; (2) the precise amount of overdue-ness, to a day, and with it the precise amount of fine the very first day it is incurred and during the subsequent week; (3) the whole of the tickets in the library *brought together*, which at any moment are overdue. And these three very important facts are brought out not by any process of examination or manipulation of the Indicator, either in whole or in part, but by a natural process of what, in these days, I may perhaps be allowed to call evolution. Tickets in fault, just because they are in fault, of themselves subside into a compartment altogether apart from their non-offending brethren, where their presence is a daily and conspicuous reminder to the librarian of the fact as well as of the amount of their transgression. This is a considerable boon, and in its train it has another of little less value. That is, as already indicated, that when a book is handed in by a borrower, the library assistant is

spared all trouble of calculation or effort of memory in determining whether the borrower is a defaulter or not. That is a point determined for him, and determined by the simple fact of the amount of space he has to traverse in order to get at the borrower's ticket. If he has to draw out the ticket from within a certain limited radius from the delivery counter, he knows for certain that he may let that borrower go off a free, and let us hope a happy, man. If, on the other hand, he has to travel a foot or two beyond that charmed circle, he knows with equal certitude that he can now exact, with such relish as he may, a fine of one, two or four pennies, as the case may be.

It remains now only to add that, as established in the Aberdeen Public Library, the "Duplex Indicator," during the eighteen months it has been in operation, has won the good opinion of all concerned by the uniform smoothness, celerity, and justness of its dealings.

A. W. ROBERTSON.

NOTE.—The foregoing is the substance of a paper which the writer was prevented, by sudden indisposition, from reading at the late conference in London. It was his intention to accompany the reading by a practical exhibition of the working of the Indicator, and for that purpose he had had prepared a model of its several parts.



## THE LIBRARY CHRONICLE.

### Library Notes and News.

*The Editor earnestly requests that librarians will send to him early and accurate information as to all local Library doings. The briefest record of facts and dates is all that is required, and all contributions used will be paid for.*

*In course of time the "Library Notes and News" will become of the utmost value to the historian of the Free Library movement, and it is therefore of the highest importance that every paragraph should be vouched for by local knowledge.*

ASCOT.—Miss J. Durning Smith, of Kingsride, has purchased the old post-office premises at Ascot, which she intends to fit up as a library for the use of the residents.

BINGLEY, YORKSHIRE.—It is proposed to turn the Mechanics' Institute to use as town's offices, public baths and free library, subject to the adoption of the Libraries Act by the ratepayers. Mr. Alfred Sharp, of Carr Head, has promised a donation of £1,000 towards the establishment of a library.

BRENTFORD.—Mr. F. A. Turner has been appointed librarian of the Brentford Free Library.

DARLASTON.—Lord Hatherton opened a bazaar on December 3rd in aid of the free library, and £425 was realised from the stalls. The rate is very small, and is nearly absorbed by interest and repayment of loans.

DULWICH.—The inhabitants of East Dulwich have adopted the Libraries Act.

EDINBURGH.—The committee of the new public library have now acquired over 33,000 volumes for the lending department and about 17,000 volumes for the reference library. Professor Masson explained at a recent meeting how the last addition of books had been obtained. He stated that the Books Committee had circulated a list of wants, and had received reports from booksellers in large towns. The lowest offers were accepted, and the result was that 80 per cent. of the books were obtained at lower prices than would have been paid in the ordinary way. This plan had turned out a very economical way of purchasing the books. The result was that when they looked over a catalogue now it was astonishing to find how very seldom they had to tick any off, because they possessed almost all the books which were *prima facie* desirable. They had now beyond their maximum of 50,000 volumes, and it was probable that they would reach 60,000 before the opening of the library. It is expected that the library will be opened not later than March.

GALASHIELS.—The formal opening of the extended free library and reading rooms took place on November 30th. The addition has been built in commemoration of the Queen's jubilee. Mr. A. L. Brown gave an interesting sketch of the history of the library from its opening in 1874, and the Rev. Dr. Gloag delivered an address on literature.



HULL.—The James Reckitt Public Library, founded by Mr. James Reckitt for the inhabitants of East Hull, was opened on December 10th, by the Marquis of Ripon. The capitalised value of Mr. Reckitt's gift is £11,000. The library starts with 8,200 volumes.

LONDON : BATTERSEA.—The Library Commissioners have sealed a contract for the erection of a branch library and reading room in Meath Street, at the Nine Elms end of the parish.

LONDON : BETHNAL GREEN.—On December 11th, in the Whitehall Rooms, the Committee of the Bethnal Green Free Library gave a very successful "Festival Dinner" to the supporters of that most deserving institution. So far as libraries are concerned, we believe this method of raising funds is a new departure, but it was wholly justified by the result. The Duke of Cambridge presided, and he was supported by a very influential gathering.

LONDON : CHELSEA.—The Vestry has sanctioned the application of the Free Library Commissioners to borrow £11,500, to be applied in the erection and furnishing of a library building in Manresa Road.

LONDON : KENSINGTON.—The Central Public Library, Kensington, was publicly opened on November 29th by H.R.H. the Princess Louise, Marchioness of Lorne. For this purpose the Old Vestry Hall of Kensington had been secured by the Commissioners, and adapted in an effective manner. The Princess was conducted over the rooms by the Commissioners and evinced much interest in the arrangements and in the books, many of which were shown to her by the chief librarian, Mr. Herbert Jones. About 500 guests were present, and amongst many others may be mentioned the Attorney-General and Miss Webster, Lady Mary Glyn, Sir Algernon Borthwick, the Rev. the Hon. E. C. Glyn, M.A., Sir Lyon Playfair, Professor Gladstone, Professor Flower, Maunde Thompson, Gen. Pollard, Mr. Geo. Bullen, Mr. Augustine Birrell, M.P., Mr. W. G. Wills, Mr. Andrew Lang, Mr. Thomas Greenwood, Mr. Robert Harrison, and most of the Chairmen of Commissioners and chief librarians of the London libraries. The Rev. and Hon. E. C. Glyn having taken the chair, Mr. Herbert Saunders, Q.C. gave an account of the public library movement in Kensington, of the Heywood Public Library, and of the work of the Commissioners up to date, both as regards the central and the two branches. The Princess then formally declared the library open, and signed the visitors' book—an example followed by many present. The Attorney-General, Sir Algernon Borthwick, and others having spoken, the Marquis of Lorne responded to a vote of thanks to the Princess, which was passed by acclamation. There was music and singing during the ceremony, which was most successful in every way. The news room is a large apartment, lighted, as is the rest of the building, by electricity. The reference library on the first floor is a comfortable and suitable room; the book-cases and furniture throughout are of mahogany, the floors covered with kamptulicon, and the heating and ventilation seem effective. There were about 6,000 volumes in the library on the opening day.

LONDON : LAMBETH.—On December 7th the ratepayers of Lambeth parish voted on the question of raising the library rate from a halfpenny in the pound to one penny with the following result: Against increase, 13,239; for increase, 11,251—Majority against, 1,988. Out of 48,700 ratepayers, only 24,490 voted. A gift of £15,500 for the central library at Brixton was contingent upon the penny rate being accepted, and is therefore lost.

LONDON : PADDINGTON.—Mr. Passmore Edwards, proprietor of the *Echo*, who has given no less than 10,000 volumes to free libraries during the present year, has now contributed 500 new and handsomely bound volumes, of sterling value, to the Paddington Free Library.



LONDON: WHITECHAPEL.—The poll for a free library in Whitechapel was declared on December 14th, with the result that, on a register of 6,000, there were 3,553 affirmative votes, and only 935 dissentients. The *Times* says:—"This is a great educational victory, and it is worth noting how it was won. About eleven years ago a similar proposal was rejected by a majority of about two to one. Since then education has advanced rapidly in Whitechapel, and a great change has been worked in public feeling, so great that this year it seemed worth while to begin a fresh struggle for books. The requisition necessary to bring about a poll was signed by ratepayers of both political parties, and three meetings in support of the scheme were held by the local Liberal Association. Meanwhile the Rev. S. A. Barnett put forward an appeal for £5,000, to pay for a site and a building; £3,400 has already been subscribed, and last week's success ought to stimulate generosity yet further." The Rev. William Rogers, in a letter to the *Times*, December 17th, contends that the wants of Whitechapel will be met by the institute, which it is proposed under the City of London Parochial Charities Act to establish in the parish of St. Botolph, Bishopsgate. An accessible site, it seems, has been bought by the trustees of the Bishopsgate charities at a cost of over £20,000, and the Charity Commissioners have set aside £40,000 for the building and equipment.

MANCHESTER.—Mr. J. W. Southern has been appointed chairman of the Free Libraries Committee, in succession to Alderman Walton Smith, who has resigned, after occupying the chair with much distinction for several years.]

NELSON, LANCASHIRE.—The free library was opened on Nov. 30th by Mr. W. Farrer Ecroyd. The *Nelson and Colne Express* of the same day gave a long account of the origin of the new library.

OLDHAM.—A meeting of the Association of Librarians of the Mersey District was held on Nov. 29th at the Oldham Free Library, when papers were read by Mr. Thomas Formby on *Ladies' Reading Rooms in connection with Free Libraries*, and by Mr. Robert Batement on *The Training of Library Assistants*. Mr. Charles Madeley was appointed honorary secretary of the Association.

PERTH.—Lord Provost Whittet has received a letter from Mr. John R. Palmer, of Brisbane, Queensland, a native of Perth, suggesting the establishment of a free public library in that city, and offering to give £100 to commence the movement.

RHONDDA VALLEY, SOUTH WALES.—The people of Porth have asked the Local Board to take steps to adopt the Libraries Act for this district, and the matter will shortly be taken up.

RICHMOND, SURREY.—Amongst recent donations to the free library is one by the executors of the late Rev. G. S. Ingram of the greater part of the library of that gentleman. It has been decided to place a number of books in the reading room as an "open reference library," to be used by the public without application to an attendant.

ST. HELENS.—Mr. Henry Lacey has been re-elected chairman of the Free Library Committee—a position he has filled for over a quarter of a century.

SOUTHAMPTON.—Sir Frederick Perkins has purchased the library of the late Mr. Falvey for presentation to the Southampton Free Library.

WORCESTER.—At a recent meeting of the Worcester Free Library Committee, Mr. F. Corbett, chairman, paid a just tribute to the memory of the late Mr. C. M. Downes, whose power of organisation and untiring labours largely contributed to the adoption in Worcester of the Public

Libraries Act, and the foundation of the free library in that city. We desire to add our own sincere testimony to the admirable qualities of this indefatigable worker for the public good. Few men of our acquaintance have been more earnest, clear-headed or persevering than the late Mr. Downes.

The writer of the "London Letter" in a Norwich paper recently stated that "Admiral Walker has made a very sensible innovation in instituting libraries in the forecastles of our men-of-war, all Scott's, Dickens', and Thackeray's novels to be supplied for the use of men under his command. A forecastle library consisted before generally of a Bible and almanack, a collection too limited to afford the men much relaxation." This has occasioned the following correction by a correspondent of the paper. "On a ship being commissioned, a library is supplied according to the complement of men she carries. The smallest ship would have about 200 volumes; the largest ship about 500; and as to Jack's private library when serving abroad, the number of cheap pirated works of our celebrated writers to be found on the lower deck would surprise a great number of people who are not acquainted with the seamen of to-day."

BRITISH MUSEUM.—The official returns show that the number of readers in the library of the British Museum in the year 1886 was 176,803, giving an average of about 580 per diem, and the number of books supplied to them was 1,247,888. In 1887 the number of readers had risen to 182,778, or an average of 602 per diem, and the number of books supplied to them to 1,852,725. The latest completed statistics—those, namely, for 1888—show that the number of readers in that year had risen to 188,432, or an average of 620 per diem, and the number of books supplied to them to 1,950,060.

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The *Bookseller* for November has the following paragraph:—"Free Public Beggars.—Begging for books on behalf of Free Public Libraries seems to have become a recognised mode of procedure. Hardly a week passes without the arrival of a circular from some quarter, announcing the establishment of a Free Public Library for the benefit of a set of worthy but seemingly impecunious people whom we never saw and care nothing about, but on whose behalf a gift of books is demanded. It appears to us that if a town or district cannot afford to support a library out of the local rates it had better defer the establishment of such an institution until its rateable value has sufficiently increased to yield the requisite amount."

It is stated that if paper made from wood fibre be exposed to the electric light it becomes yellowish.

## Obituary.

We regret to have to record the death of Mr. John Hall, who recently resigned his appointment as librarian to the Nicholson Institute, Leek, on his appointment to the librarianship of the Croydon Public Libraries. Mr. Hall was to have entered upon his new duties on the 2nd of September last, but almost immediately after he removed from Leek he was stricken with serious illness, which developed into congestion of the lungs. He died on the 7th of December at the Public Library, Croydon. He was only thirty years of age. The Libraries Committee showed him the greatest kindness and attention during his illness. A widow and family are left entirely without the means of support, but we are gratified to hear that the Mayor of Croydon and other members of the Libraries Committee have subscribed handsomely towards a fund for establishing



Mrs. Hall in some business. Subscriptions towards this laudable object should be sent to the Mayor of Croydon (J. H. Schmitz, Esq.), or to F. T. Edridge, Esq. (Chairman of Libraries' Committee), Addiscombe Court, Croydon.

## Record of Bibliography and Library Literature.

Congrès bibliographique international, tenu à Paris du 3 au 7 avril, 1888, sous les auspices de la Société Bibliographique. *Compte rendu des travaux.* Paris: au siège de la Société Bibliographique, 1889. 8vo, pp. 886.

As befits the report of a Congress which meets only once in ten years, the *Compte rendu des Travaux* of the "Congrès bibliographique international" forms a very imposing volume. Its contents deal with almost the whole range of bibliography, but with a certain discursiveness and abstinence from definite facts which greatly diminishes the usefulness of the work from a practical point of view. An article on "La littérature populaire en Angleterre" is a striking example of these shortcomings, besides being full of misprints, such as Malloch for Mallock, Skead for Skeat, and Pitspun for Pitt Press. Working bibliographers, however, will find on pages 695-790 a really useful review by M. Henri Stein of "Les travaux bibliographiques de 1878 à 1888." Here the titles of all the books mentioned are given in full, with their pagination and other details, and bibliographies forming parts of other works are frequently mentioned. This long article is of such a useful character that we would gladly see it separately printed, together with the corresponding contribution by Mr. Pawlowski, read at the Congress of 1878.

The Library of Mary Queen of Scots, by Julian Sharman, with an historical introduction and a rare portrait of the Queen. London: Elliot Stock, 1889. 8vo, pp. 180.

The text of this catalogue of Mary Queen of Scot's library was known to antiquaries at the beginning of the present century, and Sir Walter Scott's reference in *The Abbot* to the Queen's taste in books makes it probable that he had at least seen it. The catalogue was first printed by Thomas Thomson for a volume of "Miscellanies" issued by the Maitland Club in 1834. Mr. Sharman has now edited it with elaborate notes on each book, and with a very readable introduction. The Queen's taste in books was catholic in the best sense of the word. Works of theology and devotion are numerous; the classics are present both in editions of the originals and in translations into French, Italian and English. As befits a Queen she possessed works on history and on military tactics, while light literature was represented on her shelves by the works of Petrarch, Boccaccio, Alain Chartier, Ronsard and numerous other French and Italian poets.

List of the Books of Reference in the Reading Room of the British Museum. Third Edition, revised. Printed by order of the Trustees, 1889. pp. xxv., 474.

The chief feature in this new edition is the great extension of the Index of Subjects, which in previous issues has consisted only of the names of the different writers following each subject heading. In place of this we now have a full subject index of nearly one hundred and fifty pages, in which the title and press mark of every work indexed is duly recorded. A few large headings such as "Biblical Criticism and Exe-

gesis," "England—History," "Heraldry and Genealogy," &c., show the richness of the reference library in the class of works most in request. The catalogue is prefaced by the admirable account of the Reading Room written by the late Mr. Winter-Jones for the first edition. This is brought up to date by a "Postscript," signed by Mr. Bullen, in which the chief events in the history of the library during the last eighteen years are briefly set forth. A short table, however, at the end of the introduction is more eloquent than any words. By this we learn that in 1873 the number of readers was 103,971 and the number of books asked for 295,736, the corresponding figures for 1888 being respectively 188,432 and 744,221.

List of Bibliographical Works in the Reading Room of the British Museum. Second Edition, revised. Printed by order of the Trustees, 1889. pp. xi., 103.

The usefulness of the late Mr. G. W. Porter's list of bibliographies in the reading room has caused the first edition to be exhausted rather more quickly than is usually the case with official publications. From Mr. Bullen's brief prefatory note we learn that the new issue has been prepared by Mr. G. K. Fortescue, who has managed to find time to very thoroughly revise the list, despite the exacting nature of his duties as superintendent of the Reading Room. Although the size of the volume remains about the same as that of the first edition, the number of books recorded is considerably increased, room having been made for fresh entries by a judicious curtailment of some unnecessarily long titles. Improvements have also been made in the arrangement, and the task of finding the books in the little cases in which they stand considerably lightened by the addition of shelf-marks.

Catalogue of Additions to the Manuscripts in the British Museum in the years 1882-1887. Printed by order of the Trustees, 1889, 8vo, pp. xv., 1140.

Judging from the bulk of this handsome volume the Museum collection of Manuscripts appears to grow at a great rate. A short list of the rarer works acquired during the six years the catalogue covers shows that the increase is very evenly divided over all the different subdivisions into which manuscripts may be distributed. Selecting almost at random we may mention the Herculaneum rolls of the first century, A.D., a *Gesta Cnutonis*, with a drawing of the author presenting his book to Queen Emma, and a Latin Grammar with Saxon glossaries (both 11th century), several finely illuminated Books of Hours, a 14th century MS. of the *Divina Comedia*, Wace's *Roman de Brut* (13th and 14th century), Richard Crashaw's *Poems*, the manuscript of Sir Walter Scott's *Tapestried Chamber*, Letters of Oliver Cromwell, two family Bibles belonging to Milton, with entries as to his children, a medical commonplace-book of John Locke's, and last but not least, a collection of 112 songs and pieces of music of the time of Henry VIII., of which a very large proportion are by the King himself. The finding of all these treasures is rendered easy by the addition of an excellent index.

The Book: its printers, illustrators and binders, from Gutenberg to the present time. By Henri Bouchot. With a treatise on the art of collecting and describing early printed books. Edited by H. Grevel. Containing one hundred and seventy-two facsimiles. London: H. Grevel and Co. 1890 [1889], 8vo, pp. xv., 383.

Mr. Grevel's new and enlarged edition of Mr. Bigmore's translation of *Le Livre* deserves the attention of librarians on account of the number



and excellence of its illustrations. Little else can be said in its praise. The translation is so bad as frequently to be unintelligible, and the additions to the text of M. Henri Bouchot's brightly-written, if sketchy, little book quite destroy its symmetry. A lengthy adaptation of a German treatise "On the art of collecting and describing early printed books" will add nothing to the knowledge of any one who has ever catalogued half a dozen 15th century books under proper supervision, while for the general reader it is supremely dull. But, as we have said, the numerous facsimiles of early topography, illustrations, printers' marks and binding are really excellent, and if Mr. Grevel has failed as editor, as publisher his liberality and enterprise deserve high praise.

### Library Catalogues and Reports.

Liverpool. Catalogue of the Liverpool [proprietary] Library, Lyceum, Bold Street, 1889. cr. 4to. pp. xxiv., 590.

This handsomely printed and carefully compiled volume might easily suggest a digression upon the evolution of our large proprietary and subscription libraries. Here is a library of 77,000 volumes, which had its origin in the few books kept in the cupboard of a Liverpool schoolmaster in 1757, and now one of the most important libraries of the north. From the preface we learn that the titles of about 28,000 works are included in this work, and that, with the exception of a supplementary catalogue issued in 1866, it is the only proper catalogue of the library that has been issued since 1850. It is compiled on the "dictionary" system—a form that has not been favourably received in subscription libraries, by reason of the heavy percentage of novel readers, who object to the necessary hunting from A to Z to pick their fiction from all the other literature represented. Mr. Wakefield overcomes this difficulty by placing under the heading of "Novels" all this class, which seems a commendable plan for such libraries. The greatest pains seem to have been taken to render the work easy and complete of reference, and a trustworthy guide to the collection is the result. Pen-names, synonyms, &c., have been industriously searched out, and altogether the catalogue displays qualities in its compiler that must greatly add to the high estimation already felt for Mr. Wakefield in Liverpool.

We may add that an exceedingly interesting historical account of the foundation and growth of the library is contained in the preface.

### The Borrajo Prize Essay.

Mr. E. M. Borrajo having for the third time offered a prize of *Three Guineas* and asked the Council to name the subject and conditions, the Council have decided that the prize shall be offered to library assistants (whether members of the L.A. or not) for a set of examples of the Association Cataloguing Rules not to be taken from any other set of rules or catalogue, but chosen directly from the books themselves. Essays must be sent in not later than July 31st, 1890,—addressed to the Hon. Secretaries and endorsed "Borrajo Prize Essay." Copies of the Association Cataloguing rules can be had on application to Mr. E. C. Thomas, Hon. Sec., 13, South Square, Gray's Inn, W.C.

NAME.	Population.	Acts adopted.	No. of Libraries in operation.	LENDING LIBRARIES.								REFERENCE LIBRARIES.					NEWS ROOM.		SUNDAY.		
				No. of Borrowers.	No. of years Tickets available.	No. of days Books lent.	No. of Vols.	Issue for Month.	Days Open.	Daily Average.	Total Issue since Opening.	No. of Vols.	Issue for Month.	Days Open.	Daily Average.	Total Issue since Opening.	Attendance for Month.	Daily Average.	Attendance for Month.	Daily Average.	
Battersea	107,262	1887	1	3,810	2	14	5,512	9,495	26	365	89,628	...	...	...	...	...	...	500	...	1,657	414
Chelsea	102,745	1887	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3,785	1,085	30	36	9,868	27,780	1,061	265	...	...
Clerkenwell	69,076	1887	1	2,279	1	15	8,524	6,873	26	264	40,825	1,105	...	...	...	...	...	6,896	...	...	...
Fulham	77,000	1886	1	5,180	1 & 2	14	4,733	9,816	21	467	123,081	2,370	324	21	15	5,536	...	1,000	...	1,016	254
Kensington	162,924	1887	2	?	2	14	13,941	10,278	22	467	122,309	See Lending	820	30	27	21,081	11,671	388	703	431	108
St. Martin-in-the-Fields	17,508	1887	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Southwark, Christ Church	13,000	1888	1	125	2	7	2,200	427	21	20	...	See Lending	558	26	21	...	...	12,595	484	Not counted	...
Wandsworth	35,000	1883	1	3,479	2	7	7,465	7,805	21	371	368,428	3,196	349	21	16	22,423	...	49,920	1,920	...	...
Westminster	59,837	1856	2	3,883	3	14	21,769	ending Nov. 25 7,762	26	299	...	See Lending	ending Nov. 25 6,207	26	239	...	...	...	...	...	...

THE EDITOR hopes that Librarians in all parts of the country will send statistics of the work done in their several Libraries, in a form similar to what is shewn in the above preliminary Table. It is proposed to publish these returns in the *Library* monthly or quarterly, according to the response made, and the hope is entertained that all Librarians will co-operate in compiling a body of statistics which will ultimately become of the highest interest and value. The present form of return is merely tentative, and subject to any suggestions as to improvement which may be received. All returns for December, 1889, with suggestions or remarks, should be sent to Mr. JAMES D. BROWN, Public Library, Clerkenwell, London, W.C., on or before January 10th next.

# The Library Association of the United Kingdom.

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## President:

E. MAUNDE THOMPSON, Principal Librarian of the British Museum.

## Hon. Treasurer:

HENRY R. TEDDER, Librarian, Athenæum Club, Pall Mall, S.W.

## Hon. Secretaries:

J. Y. W. MAC ALISTER,  
20, Hanover Square, W.

ERNEST C. THOMAS,  
Gray's Inn, W.C

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THE LIBRARY ASSOCIATION OF THE UNITED KINGDOM was founded on October 5th, 1877, at the conclusion of the Library Conference held at the London Institution, under the presidency of Mr. J. Winter Jones, Principal Librarian of the British Museum.

Its objects are (a) to encourage and aid by every means in its power the establishment of new libraries; (b) to endeavour to secure better legislation for free libraries; (c) to unite all persons engaged or interested in library work, for the purpose of promoting the best possible administration of libraries; and (d) to encourage bibliographical research.

Annual meetings have been held in various leading towns, including London, Oxford, Manchester, Edinburgh, Cambridge, Liverpool, Dublin, Plymouth, Birmingham and Glasgow. The next Annual Meeting (1890) will be held in Reading by the invitation of the Chairman and Committee of the Free Public Library.

Monthly meetings are held on the second Monday of each month, from October to June, and are announced in *The Library*.

The Annual Subscription is One Guinea, payable in advance, on the 1st January. The Life Subscription is Fifteen Guineas. *Any person actually engaged in library administration may become a member at once on payment to the Treasurer of the Subscription.* Any person not so engaged may be elected at the Monthly or Annual Meetings. Library Assistants, approved by the Council, are admitted on payment of a Subscription of Half-a-Guinea.

The Association has instituted an Examination for Library Assistants, and issues a certificate to those who satisfy the examiners.

The Association has published a large number of interesting and important papers in its *Transactions*, *Monthly Notes*, *The Library Chronicle*, and in *The Library*, its official organ, which is sent post free to all members.

The Secretaries invite papers on questions of practical librarianship or other appropriate subjects, for reading at the Monthly and Annual Meetings.

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## LIBRARY ASSOCIATION RECORD.

The last Monthly Meeting was held at 20, Hanover Square, on Monday, December 9th, at 8 p.m.

Paper: "Suggestions for a Scientific Book Classification;" by Mr. J. S. Stuart Glennie.

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The next MEETING will be held in the Library of Gray's Inn on MONDAY, January 13th, at eight p.m.

The Council will meet at seven the same evening.

The Council have decided that the February Meeting shall be held in Manchester. Due notice of time and place will be given.

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Editorial Communications and Books for Review should be addressed to the Editor—Advertisements and Business Letters to the Publisher, 62, Paternoster Row, E.C.

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## The Author to his Book.

[*For the last page.*]

“ Witness my hand and seal thereto.”  
I’ve almost grown to love your face,  
You have your share of false and true,—  
We part, my Book, in evil case.

We part. Or long or short your race,  
I wish you well, whate’er you do.  
May all the gods your sinews brace!  
Witness my hand and seal thereto.

I think you have not much that’s new;  
I know you have not aught that’s base;  
Yet why should I that theme pursue,  
I’ve almost grown to love your face.

Let others point your lack of grace,  
Of Art, of Thought. Though all the crew  
Of foes and friends should prate apace,  
You have your share of false and true.

Yet would your journey’s way I knew!  
Would upon Fortune’s chart could trace  
Your route to “ audience fit though few ”!  
We part, my Book, in evil case.

But go. Both good and ill have place.  
I pray the Fates not less that you  
May somewhere find, a moment’s space  
By chance one steadfast friend (or two);  
Witness my hand.

AUSTIN DOBSON.

## Christopher Plantin.

## III.

DURING Plantin's residence at the *Licorne d'Or* occurred the strange episode in his life from which it would appear that the future proto-typographer of Philip II., most catholic of all the Most Catholic Majesties of Spain, was actually tainted with that heresy which it was his sovereign's life-long labour to endeavour to uproot and destroy.

In 1562, Margaret, Duchess of Parma—at that time Philip's representative in the Netherlands, and almost as bigoted a Romanist as her brother himself—found her orthodox mind grievously troubled by the appearance and circulation in Antwerp of an heretical little work in both French and Flemish, entitled *Briefve Instruction pour prier*, which, judging from the types with which it was printed (for it bore no printer's name), was generally supposed to have had its origin in the establishment of Plantin, who was strongly suspected, together with his family and workpeople, of being addicted to the detestable religious opinions then becoming prevalent.

Plantin himself was at this time absent in Paris, but, by Margaret's orders, search was made in his printing-office for copies of the book in question, and the various members of his household were arrested with the view of eliciting from them particulars of its production.

The result of these enquiries was that three of Plantin's workmen acknowledged the French edition of the book as their handiwork, but at the same time declared that their master himself knew nothing of it, and that all, or nearly all, the copies had been sent by them to Metz, from which town they had obtained the work for printing. As to the Flemish version, that was the issue, not of any Antwerp press, but of Emden, a place at that time fertile in producing heretical writings.

Margaret's chief agent in this inquisition was John d'Immerseel, Margrave of Antwerp, and probably a secret friend of Plantin, for notwithstanding his discovery of a certain number of copies of the *Briefve Instruction* at the *Licorne d'Or*, and the possibility of Plantin's cognisance of the same, he does not seem to have advocated the taking any extreme measures against the master printer himself, who was accordingly able to

return to Antwerp in the following year, 1563, without fear of molestation.

We learn, however, from a letter discovered by M. Rooses in the archives of the Musée Plantin-Moretus that in June, 1563, Plantin was cited by Margaret to appear before her at Brussels to explain his connection with a book called *L'Instruction chrestienne*, by F. J. Pierre Ravillan, which had been published the year before with Plantin's name and device on the title-page. A copy of this little book is in the Musée, and is rendered doubly interesting by the fact of its having on the title the following note in Plantin's own writing:—*Ceste impression est faussement mise en mon nom car je ne l'ai faicte ni faict faire*. Probably, as M. Rooses says, it is the identical copy taken by Plantin to Brussels on his repairing thither in obedience to Margaret's summons. As a further possible proof of the falseness of the imprint it may be noted that the wording of Plantin's motto is reversed, being not *Labore et Constantia*, as was his own almost invariable reading, but *Constantia et Labore*.

On two or three other occasions also Plantin seems to have incurred the imputation of heresy, and we actually find in the *Index librorum prohibitorum* printed by him in 1570 the titles of two books issued by his own press, the *Testamenten der XII. patriarchen*, dated 1564, and Clement Marot's version of the Psalms.

Plantin, however, managed to clear himself of all suspicion, to the satisfaction of even Philip's jealous and bigoted government, and to steer his way so triumphantly to that monarch's favour that in June, 1570, he was appointed "Regius Prototypographus," a title which appears on many of the books printed by him after that date.

But notwithstanding Plantin's repeated asseverations of his devotion to the Church of Rome, and the favourable light in which he was regarded by Philip and his ministers, it appears certain, from some recently-discovered letters of his own, and other documents, that he was for several years in intimate connection with various heretics, even if he did not sincerely embrace their tenets. The principal of these were Hendrik Niklaes or Claessen, a native of Munster, and founder of the anabaptist sect called the *Hüsgesinne der Liefsten* or *Family of Love*, and one of his most ardent disciples, Hendrik Janssen, otherwise Barrefelt or Hiel—for by both of these latter names he styled himself. Plantin's connection with Niklaes began about 1550, very soon after his first arrival in Antwerp, and continued for nearly twenty years, when the projected issue of his great Poly-



glot, and consequent need of Philip's goodwill and patronage, made it necessary for him to be more than ever cautious in the matter of religious opinions. Yet so strong a fascination had the views of these new teachers for him that he only quitted the *Family of Love* to join Janssen or Barrefelt, who himself had, some time previously, broken off from Niklaes, and formed a new sect of his own. The intimacy thus established between them lasted for the remainder of Plantin's life, and was shared by several members of his family. Various works of both Niklaes and Barrefelt were printed at the Plantin press, and the latter at one time entertained the idea of placing his son there as an apprentice; yet, strange to say, Plantin seems never to have been discovered, or even suspected, to be the printer of these heretical volumes, which have only within the last few years been ascertained to have issued from his press.

It is an interesting question whether Plantin owed his first knowledge of, and affection for, the doctrines of Niklaes and Janssen to these teachers themselves, or whether his mind was not predisposed towards them by what he may have heard many years before his acquaintance with them, and in a place far distant from their centre of influence.

It seems far from improbable that we are to look, not to the country of his adoption, but to his native land of France; not to busy Antwerp where he won his fame, but to Caen, the more obscure home of his younger days, for the origin of that inclination towards freedom of religious belief which evidently always possessed such an attraction for him.

From an early period Caen was favourable to the doctrines of the reformers, especially those of Calvin, and in 1540, only about five years after Plantin's arrival there, we hear of many of the inhabitants being "tainted with heresy." As time went on their number increased rather than diminished, and the printers appear to have been as a class very generally addicted to the new religion; so much so that in 1564 we find them specially mentioned in a *procès-verbal* of the visitation of the University made in November of that year by Charles de Bourgueville and Louis Turgot, who state that the printers and booksellers of Caen print and sell many books of a suspicious and scandalous description, the said books bearing the name of neither author nor printer.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>2</sup> *Les Recherches et Antiquitez de la Province de Neustrie, à present Duché de Normandie, comme des villes remarquables d'icelle; Mais plus spécialement de la Ville et Université de Caen, par Charles de Bourgueville. Caen, 1833, p. 371.*

In some of the books printed by Robert Macé, second of the name and Plantin's master at Caen, is a device no doubt indicative of that printer's adoption of the reformed religion. The device in question represents the infant Saviour standing on a pedestal, bearing in his right hand a heart and with the legend *Petra autem erat Christus*, which, as Rooses remarks, is probably intended as a contradiction of the Romish interpretation of the words *Tu es Petrus et super hanc petram ædificabo ecclesiam meam*. Plantin's own future device of a vine and the motto *Christus vera vitis* seems to be a reminiscence of his early training under Macé and a parallel to the mark of the Norman printer; and we may fairly consider it as certain that if Plantin was not actually at heart an adherent of Calvin or some other of the reformers previous to his emigration to Antwerp, yet that he was at all events strongly prejudiced in favour of their teaching.

The sale of Plantin's entire possessions at Antwerp in 1562 during his temporary absence in Paris, though ostensibly a forced sale for the payment of numerous heavy debts, seems on closer examination to have been not altogether necessary for that purpose. It was not improbably a friendly *ruse* on the part of several of Plantin's intimates to save his property from becoming the prey of the Spanish government, whose suspicions had been aroused by the appearance of the *Briefve Instruction pour prier* as already described. This theory is rendered the more likely from the fact of one of the principal creditors claiming payment out of the proceeds of the sale having been Cornelius Bomberg, a relative of Plantin and one of his warmest friends and future partners, himself too not altogether free from suspicion of heresy. But however this may be, it is certain that the sale was not such a blow to Plantin's prosperity as might have been expected, and that he was able, not only to recover from it, but to attain to surer wealth and greater fame thereafter.

The immediate result of the proceedings against him was a complete change in the conduct of his business, for resuming and carrying on which he found it necessary to avail himself of the aid of others. For this purpose he took as partners four of his friends, all of whom were related to each other, Charles and Cornelius Bomberg, John Goropius Becanus and Jacopo Schotti, the two first of whom were already connected with the art of typography by their descent from Daniel Bomberg, the Venetian printer, celebrated for his oriental types, some of which thus found their way into Plantin's establishment.



This partnership dated from October 1, 1563, and was to last for four years, Plantin having the chief management of the business and his name alone appearing on the titles of all books issued by the firm with the exception of those in the Hebrew language, in which Cornelius Bomberg was entitled to place his own, in virtue of having supplied the types requisite for them.

These four years, from 1563 to 1567, are in some respects the most brilliant in the history of the Plantin press. They saw the production of upwards of two hundred works of almost every description—theological, legal, scientific, and classical, including the first Greek books issued by our printer and the first Hebrew, besides many of the most beautifully printed and sumptuously illustrated volumes that appeared in any country during the sixteenth century, amongst which may be specially mentioned the *Emblemata* of Sambucus and the *Œconomia Sacra* of Villavicentio in 1564, the *Heures de Nôtre Dame* in 1565 and 1566, and the Flemish Bible also of the latter date.

The production of these and many other illustrated works throughout his career necessarily involved the employment by Plantin of numerous artists, the principal of whom may here be briefly noticed.

The most prolific, perhaps, was Peter van der Borcht, of Mechlin, who settled in Antwerp after the loss of all his property in that sack of his native city by Alva's troops in 1572, of which we are told that it was so terribly complete that "hardly a nail was left in the walls." Previous to this, however, he had furnished the illustrations for the second edition of the *Emblemata* of Sambucus published in 1566, and for the *Fables* of Faernus in 1567; also those for the botanical works of Dodonæus, all of which were engraved by Nicolai, Muller, and Van Kempen. He afterwards supplied the greater part of the designs for the *Humanæ Salutis Monumenta* of Arias Montanus of 1571, and those for various Missals, Breviaries, and Horæ. In fact, almost every class of book that issued from the Plantin press was more or less indebted to him for its adornment, and for several years after the death of Plantin himself he continued to labour for his successors.

Another Mechlin artist employed by Plantin was Crispin van den Broeck, who provided the designs for the fourth edition of the *Humanæ Salutis Monumenta* and upwards of twenty of those in the great Latin Bible of 1583. The illustrations of the *Sacrarum Antiquitatum Monumenta* of Hillessemius were the joint production of Van den Broeck and Van der Borcht.



The principal Antwerp artists in Plantin's service were Martin de Vos and Peter Huys, the former of whom furnished designs for many devotional works, including a set of illustrations for Missals which were in use down to the year 1613. Peter Huys, besides contributing original work of his own, also adapted and engraved the work of others, the books he was chiefly concerned with being the *Vivæ imagines partium corporis humani*, the Sambucus of 1564 and the Royal Bible. He also made a large number of designs, engraved by Nicolai, for a book entitled *Commentarius in Ptolomæum et artem navigationis H. Broucei*, which, however, was never published.

Amongst the numerous engravers employed by Plantin the most noteworthy are Arnold Nicolai, who was the first to enter his service; Gerard van Kampen, who began working for him in 1564 and continued to do so till the latter's death; Anthony van Leest; and the three brothers, John, Henry, and Jerome Wiericx, to whom (notwithstanding the dissolute life of at all events the two last) we are indebted for some of the most beautiful engravings in Plantin's publications.

If to these we add the long list of less distinguished painters, engravers, illuminators, and artists of every description engaged in the adornment of these various works, and the printers and other subordinate persons employed in their production, we shall be able to form some idea of the many interests involved in the prosperity of Plantin's business, and of his own personal influence and power of organisation necessary for its maintenance.

REGINALD S. FABER.

(To be continued.)



## Note on the “De Triumpho Stultitiæ” of Perisaulus Faustinus.

IN the concluding part<sup>1</sup> of a series of researches on the bibliography of histories of inventions and collections of “secrets” about nature, science, and arts, I was unable to avoid reference to certain authors who have written in disparagement of human learning in general. The most important of these iconoclasts are Cornelius Agrippa, who lived between 1486 and 1535, and is remembered by his work on the *Vanity and Uncertainty of the Arts and Sciences*, published in 1530, and Thomas Baker, of St. John’s College, Cambridge, who is remembered as an antiquarian, but who wrote a work about the beginning of last century on the insufficiency of learning. To these might have been added the ever-popular *Praise of Folly* by Erasmus, except that its popularity made mention of it superfluous, but there was another of similar tenor, which induced me to examine it because of its rarity and the conflicting accounts given of it. The conclusion I arrived at after investigation was, that, without a comparison of the copies described as different, no progress can be made towards an explanation of the cause of the differences. At present I have no opportunity of making this comparison, but I have thought it might be worth while giving a fuller account of the book and stating the questions which have to be answered when the opportunity does offer. In any case, they make a curious paragraph in the bibliography of the books considered in the papers referred to, and, besides, I am not aware of any account of the book in English, or even of a reference to it.

2. Half-a-dozen years prior to the appearance of Agrippa’s declamation, Perisaulus Faustinus, an Italian, wrote and published a Latin poem, in hexameters, on the triumph of folly. It is a delineation, with historical allusions, of the emptiness of the arts and sciences, and the failure of everything that attracts mankind ultimately to satisfy him, and, therefore, it anticipates in a slight way the more sweeping condemnation launched at all human endeavour by Agrippa.

3. The poem is divided into three books, in which are held

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<sup>1</sup> Read to the Archæological Society of Glasgow, January 19, 1888. The present note may be regarded as supplementary to what was said on that occasion.

up to view the pursuits of youth, of manhood, and of old age respectively, and the author passes his verdict on the worthlessness of each. He does not scold; but everything that engages the attention of mankind, gives him occupation, excites his ambition, or, as he fondly persuades himself, purifies his aims and beautifies the sordidness of his life, is depreciated. "Vanity and vexation of spirit" are the watchwords of this sixteenth-century preacher. It is not a little remarkable how soon after the great revival the discovery was made of the unremunerativeness of learning; very beautiful it was, no doubt: very ennobling, but the human spirit craved for something beside. It is striking to find that the cloud of oppression and hopelessness was far from being at once dispelled by so much new light as was then breaking on the world; it is startling to observe more than one writer taking up the old lament: this also is folly; it is as good to be foolish as wise, since the end is the same. As Faustinus says:

Quid tandem? cecidit. moritur, tot sæva laborum  
Millia: tot curas parvo sub marmore clausit  
Mors rerum Domitrix.

Or in the words of a modern who has gathered up the idea and given voice to this despair of the time over the fruitlessness of all for which one has laboured:

Vanity, saith the preacher, vanity!

What's done is done, and she is dead beside,  
Dead long ago, and I am Bishop since!  
And as she died so must we die ourselves,  
And thence ye may perceive the world's a dream.  
Life, how and what is it?

Swift as a weaver's shuttle fleet our years:  
Man goeth to the grave, and where is he?

4. This is the refrain of Faustinus' poem. Every pursuit of man is vanity: *Mortalium vana opera; Vrbes tandem cineres et fabula; Roma quoque facta fabula; Quod fama quamvis longa nil confert; Pueritia vano labori exposita; Vana juventæ studia; Canes et equos alere stultitia; Stultissimum ducendi chori delectamentum; Musices studium inane; Militia labor sterilis; Philosophi fabula; Rhetorice verbosa garrulitas; Medicina labor inexhaustus; Geometra delirus; Astronomia mera insania; Alchimia quam vana sit et ridenda; Artis magicæ vanitas et insania; Pulpitarii Concionatores, qui sacro relictæ*



eloquio, ad physicas se conferunt questiones, fabula; Vanum aedificandi studium; Dialectice garritus vanus; Grammaticus labor jejunos et inanis; Senectutis deliria; or, in one word as he puts it, Humana vita tota, labor, et afflictio. He reserves, however, his greatest bitterness for the section<sup>2</sup>: De insano conjugii desiderio, and draws a picture of the women of the time which, if true, justifies the title, and in any case may be set off against Cornelius Agrippa's laudation of the female sex. The problem, therefore, had been set, but the fit phrase had not yet been invented, else Faustinus would have said that life was not worth living.

5. There is no doubt that it is all true what he says about the vanity of human labour, and the failure of every human life, and that fame, however long it be, does no good, and that in general a living dog is better than a dead lion, unless maybe for museum purposes. But the Triumph of Folly, like Adelung's history thereof, is its own evidence and commendation. Can folly be of better report than when a man takes the trouble to write a long poem in Latin hexameters for the sole purpose of proving that every pursuit, everything is vain? Faustinus has not said under which category hexameters about folly come, unless it be his own rubric: "Poetica tota Fabula." What then was the author's vain motive for writing, and printing, it? A vain show of learning, or ambition, or a desire for that fame, which, however prolonged, is of no benefit? Whatever the stimulus may have been to write, Perisaulus Faustinus is remembered; he has his scrap of fame, but not for any merit that he could possibly have anticipated; not because he wrote verses—mediocre ones; not because he would be a satirist and moralist; not because he maintained a paradox—"a most ingenious paradox"—and wrote a book to show the folly of books and book-writing, but because his book has become so rare that it is vain to seek for it, or to hope to get it, so that it has no chance of a reading. Could vanity have a greater triumph? Faustinus is remembered—because he is forgotten; because nothing is known about him but a book of his, which no one can get to read.<sup>3</sup>

<sup>2</sup> According to the *Biographie Universelle*, this section was copied by a physician of Padua, Antonius Ulmus, in his singular work: *Physiologia barbe humanæ*, Bologna, 1603, second edition, folio, pp. 134-135.

<sup>3</sup> Brunet quotes a very rare tract which seems to relate to Faustinus. The title he gives is: *Barzelletta del preclarissimo poeta misser Faustino da Rimine: con altre opere di diversi autori. s. l. & a. 4<sup>o</sup>. ff. 2, of 2 columns.* I have found no notice of his life. The article in the *Biographie Universelle*, Paris, 1855, XIII. p. 438, is devoted entirely to the book and its two editions.

Quid tum?

Quid tandem? quum sit nisi fabula tota Poesis.  
Fabula carmen erit, simul et tu fabula fies.

Vain are the hopes the sons of men  
Upon their works have built.

And now for the book itself.

6. The copy of the poem which I have seen has the following title:

P E R I S A V L I  
FAVSTINI TRADOCII  
DE HONESTO APPETITV.  
FAVSTINVS TERDOCEO  
DE TRIUMPHO STVLTITIAE.  
ARIMINI TYPIS HIERONYMI  
SONCINI ITERVM OMNI  
DILIGENTIA EXCVSSA.

*Ad Reuerendisimum. D.D. Gorum Ge-  
rium Vicelegatum Bononiensem.*

The volume is a small 8vo, not paged, but with signatures A to G in eights, and H in four. The book is printed in italics, with ornamental capitals at the beginning of the chief divisions of the poems. The title is in capitals except the last two lines, the first, third, and fifth lines and the word "Arimini" being printed in red; all the rest is in black. The title-page is surrounded by a woodcut border of grotesque faces and figures, which was afterwards used for the title-pages of the Italian translation of the *Physonomia* of Michael Scotus, Venice, 1533 and 1537. On the verso of the title is the dedication or epistle of Soncinus to Gorus Gerius, Bishop of Fano, and Vice-Legate of Bologna. On the following leaf, Aii recto, the first poem: On moderation in desires, begins; it goes down to Biiii recto.<sup>4</sup> This is followed immediately by the author's address to his poem on Folly and to his readers. It ends Bvi recto, and then the poem itself begins and goes down to Hiii recto, where it ends. On the verso of this leaf is the epitaph on Faustinus, in six hexameters, followed by this colophon:

Impressum Venetiis sub Inclito Principe Andrea Griti per  
Io. Fraciscum & Io. Antonium de Rusconibus Fratres  
M. CCCCC. XXIIII. Die. VII. Decembris.

Below this is a device of the usual kind; on a black ground,

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<sup>4</sup> *Biographie Universelle* says Diiij recto, incorrectly.

a white circle with a horizontal diameter, from which a radius is drawn upwards at right angles, produced beyond the circle, and having one long and two shorter unequal lines drawn at right angles across the produced part. In the three spaces within the circle are the letters G. R. M. The last leaf H<sub>4</sub> is blank.

7. There are few books of greater rarity than this one, as can be gathered from the descriptions of all who have had to refer to it. Further evidence exists in the fact that it is not in the catalogues of the Bodleian, Trinity College, Dublin, St. Andrews and Aberdeen Universities, the Signet and Advocates' Libraries, or in the *Bibliotheca Spenceriana*, the Chatsworth and Huth Collections; and there was no copy in the Kloss, Sunderland and Wodhull Sales. The poem is not quoted by Tiraboschi, or by Graesse in his *Literär-geschichte*, and the author has no place in Ersch and Gruber's *Encyklopädie*.

8. In the British Museum, however, there are two copies [1070. d. 9 (1) and 1070. d. 10] which I have examined and which correspond with the copy above described in every particular—title, colophon and all. The only difference is that the second of the two copies wants the blank leaf at the end.

9. I have met with six published descriptions of the book, four of which are from personal inspection, the other two are at second hand. At the risk of some repetition, I shall quote them in full.

10. The first is by Maittaire,<sup>5</sup> and it is the earliest :

FAUSTINI (Perisauli) Tradocii de honesto appetitu ; Faustinus Terdoceo de triumpho stultitiæ (metricè): *Arimini typis Hieronymi Soncini iterum omni diligentia excussa*. Et in fine ; *Venetis sub inclito principe Andrea Gritti per Jo. Franciscum et Jo. Antonium de Rusconibus fratres*. M.CCCCC. XXIIII. die VII. Decembris. 8° Venet. 1524.

This agrees with the copy I have described, and with the Museum copies.

11. The next is by Brunet :<sup>6</sup>

FAUSTINUS. Perisauli Faustini tradocii de honesto appetitu. Faustinus trad., de triumpho stultitiæ. *Arimini typis Hieronymi Soncini iterum omni diligentia excussa*. (sine anno), in-8. sign. A—H. ff. non chiff., caract. ital. [12686]

<sup>5</sup> *Annalium Typographicorum ... Index*, Londini, 1741, I. 393.

<sup>6</sup> *Manuel*, Paris, 1864, ii. col. 1196.



Maittaire, Index, I, 393, après avoir donné l'indication de ce poëme, à peu près, comme ci-dessus, ajoute : *Et in fine, Venetiis sub inclito principe Andrea Gritti per Franciscum et Io.-Antonium de Rusconibus fratres. M.CCCCC.XXIII. die VII. Decembris.* Or cette souscription ne se trouve ni dans l'exemplaire de la Bibliothèque Mazarine (21236), ni dans un autre que j'ai vu, et dont voici la description. Le titre copié ici est imprimé en rouge et noir, dans un passe-partout gravé en bois ; derrière ce frontispice se lit une épître dédicatoire de Jérôme Soncino à Gorus Gerius, évêque de Fano, laquelle n'est point datée. Le premier poëme, *De honesto appetitu*, commence au f. Aii et finit au f. Biiij recto ; le 2<sup>e</sup> poëme finit au 3<sup>e</sup> f. recto de la signat. H., au verso duquel on lit l'épithaphe (en 6 vers) de l'auteur, suivie de l'indication *Apud Ariminum per Hieronymum Soncinum* ; et le 4<sup>e</sup> f. de ce même cahier H est tout blanc. Il existe bien cependant une édition de ces deux poëmes, impr. à Venise *per fratres de Rusconibus*, 1524, pet. in-8., laquelle était chez Pinelli, II, n° 5144, et chez Courtois, vend. 28 fr. *m. r.* et revend. seulement 3 sh. chez Heber. Maittaire aura vu un exemplaire de cette édition, auquel se trouvait ajouté le titre de la précédente.

I have quoted this at length, as it is the only full account from personal inspection we have of a variant from the edition I have described. So far as one can tell from *description* alone, there is no traceable difference between the copies, except in the colophon. I may say, however, that Brunet's off-hand method of explaining away this difference does not quite satisfy me.

12. The third notice refers to the copy which was in the Libri Library. The simplest way will be to quote what was said about it in Sotheby's catalogue of the sale.<sup>7</sup> It will be observed, in passing, that this was considered one of the rarest and most select books of Libri's wonderful collection.

964. FAUSTINI Tradocii (Perisauli) de honesto Appetitu.  
Faustinus Terdoceo de Triumpho Stultitiæ  
VERY SCARCE, red morocco, gilt edges

8vo. *Arimini Typis H. Soncini*, 1524

This is probably the identical copy described by Maittaire I, 393, as having at end the imprint "*Impressum Venetiis sub Inclito Principe Andrea Gritti, per Io. Frāciscum & Io. Antonium de Rusconibus Fratres M.CCCCC.XXIII. [sic] Die VII. Decembris.*" With the exception of this variation from the usual copies, which have *Apud Ariminum, per Hieronymum Soncinum*,

<sup>7</sup> *Catalogue of the choicer Portion of the . . . Library formed by M. . . Libri*, London, 1859, 8°, p. 124.

the work is in every other respect the same, but in this state is perhaps UNIQUE. Soncinus, as is well known, used Aldine Types cut by Francis de Bologna, who supplied Aldus, and who by an eminent Bibliographer, is supposed to be no one else than the celebrated painter *Francia*.

The cataloguer here considers the copy dated 1524 as unique, and those that have Soncinus' colophon as the common copies. In this he has been influenced by Brunet without sufficient consideration.

13. There was a copy of this book in the Beckford Library, and the fourth account is in the sale catalogue of that collection, where it appears in the first portion sold in July 1882, by Sotheby.

2962. Faustini Tradocii (Perisauli) de honesto Appetitu. Faustinus Terdoceo de Triumpho Stultitiæ, *red morocco extra, gilt edges, by J. Mackenzie.*

*Arimini Typis H. Soncini, s. a.*

\*.\* An excessively rare volume of poems, printed with the Aldine types designed by Francia.

If this account is to be depended on, this copy, undated, must be identical with the Mazarine copy and the other described by Brunet, unless this be actually Brunet's copy.

14. Of the two remaining descriptions one is in the *Biographie Universelle*.<sup>8</sup> The author of the article has evidently not seen a copy, and has described after Brunet the two editions, namely, the Mazarine copy which he says is of the second edition, and the Venice one of 1524. This article adds the reference to Ulmus quoted above, §4.

15. The last of all is by Graesse.<sup>9</sup> It is as follows :

FAUSTINUS. Perisauli Faustini tradocii de honesto appetitu. Faustinus trad. de triumpho stultitiæ. Arimini typis Hieronymi Soncini iterum omni diligentia excussa. s. d. in-8°. (Sign. A—H. ff. non ch.) Car. ital.

Selon *Maître, Index* Vol. I. p. 393. ce volume porte à la fin la souscription : *Impressum Venetiis sub Inclito Principe Andrea Gritti per Jo. Frāiscum & Jo. Antonium de Rusconibus Fratres. M.CCCC.XXIII. die VII. Decembris*; mais Mr. Brunet nie expressément l'existence d'une éd. avec cette souscription, tous les ex., qu'il connaisse, portant à la fin du second poème l'indication *Apud Ariminum per Hieronymum Soncinum*, et croit que le bibliographe anglais a vu un exempl. de la seconde édition des deux poèmes, impr. à Ven. *per fratres de Rusconibus*

<sup>8</sup> Paris, 1855, J. xiii. p. 438.

<sup>9</sup> *Trésor de Livres Rares*. Dresde, 1861, ii. pp. 558-9.



1524. pet. in-8°. (28 fr. Courtois. 3 sh. Heber.—V. *Cat. Pinelli* T. II. n°. 5144.) auquel se trouvait ajouté le titre de la précédente. Mais par le *Catal. Libri* 1859. n°. 964. où l'ex. de Maittaire est décrit, cette diversité des exempl. de la première éd. est constatée.

16. This note, besides containing two if not more positive errors in fact, seems to me contradictory if not incomprehensible, as well as false in principle.

(i.) Brunet (§ 11) says not a word about first and second editions, but only specifies *two* editions, and does not indicate in any way which of them he reckoned the first. He certainly does not call the 1524 edition the second.

(ii.) Maittaire's copy is *not* described in the Libri catalogue, but it is said there (§ 12) that the Libri copy is *probably* the identical copy described by Maittaire. No proof whatever is given except what is implied in the erroneous assumption of the cataloguer that the Libri copy was unique. It was not so, and Maittaire's may be one of three copies known to me, or it may be distinct from them.

(iii.) Brunet does *not deny expressly* the existence of an edition with the Venice 1524 colophon. On the contrary, he quotes it specifically, and mentions two copies of it in order to distinguish it from that with Soncinus' colophon. As for the authority of *tous les exemplaires* known to Brunet, there were only *two*, and he had an equal amount of authority for the Venice 1524 edition, if indeed he had not more, counting Maittaire's copy. But what Brunet really says is that the two copies he had seen had a different colophon from that given by Maittaire.

(iv.) Graesse seems to imply that Maittaire must be wrong, because the colophon he gives was not known to Brunet. Now Maittaire simply records what he had seen, and it does not signify in the very least—so far as the book's existence is concerned—whether Brunet saw it or not. Maittaire must have seen it, how else could he have got the colophon? unless Graesse was prepared to say that Maittaire invented it, which is absurd. Graesse seems to think that a denial by Brunet is of more importance than Maittaire's affirmation, for it is only when the latter is confirmed by the Libri copy that he admits the possibility of Maittaire being right—in short, that Brunet's denial deprives a book of existence. By parity of reasoning I should be still more justified in denying the existence of Brunet's two copies, because Maittaire did not know them, and because I myself have not seen any such, but only those similar to Maittaire's, whereas



Graesse saw no copy of any kind, and has his knowledge all at second hand. Such treatment of authorities is quite wrong in principle. Brunet himself did not make such a claim for authority or bibliographical dictatorship as is implicitly put forward for him by Graesse.

(v.) The two colophons, and the dated and undated copies, have bewildered Graesse. But he has never caught sight of the difficulties, and his last sentence is incomprehensible. If the Libri copy was Maittaire's, what more could it do in 1859 than it had done in 1741? What new confirmation could it give to itself? And if it were not Maittaire's copy, what else could it do but prove that Maittaire had given a correct description, and confirm the fact of there being two colophons? Graesse, however, seems to be of opinion that it establishes variations in the first edition, as against Brunet's explanation based on two editions. All this, however, is assumption, for the existence of different editions, or variations of one edition, constitutes the very essence of the problem which has to be solved.

17. From all this I conclude that Graesse really did not know what he was writing about, and his whole note illustrates excellently what I have said elsewhere about the futility and rashness of attempting to describe books one has not seen, and to harmonise the differences which one finds in different accounts, independently of the books themselves.

18. It is not necessary to add to the confusion by trying to reconcile these accounts when all that is really required is a comparison of copies with the different colophons. Until that is effected it is not worth while discussing opinions, for these will disappear when the facts have been ascertained. The results, however, as far as they go, may be recorded, and the questions to be answered may be stated.

19. I have seen three copies with "Arimini" on the title-page, and Venice, 1524, in the colophon. There were besides the Maittaire, Pinelli, Courtois-Heber, and Libri copies. These seven copies<sup>10</sup> are to be set against the Mazarine copy, and the other described by Brunet, and apparently the Beckford copy. It was quite an error therefore to suppose the Libri copy to be *unique*, and it is equally wrong to consider Brunet's two as the

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<sup>10</sup> This number, however, may have to be reduced if it can be shown that some of the copies, having had more than one owner, thereby appear more than once on the list. But, making every allowance, the total could not be less than four, and is most likely larger.

*usual copies*. It is they which form the exception to the usual form.

20. Next, as to Brunet's explanation, which is this. There are two editions: one, without a date, has Soncinus' name both in the title and the colophon; the other has "*Fratres de Rust conibus*," Venice, 1524, in the colophon. Of the title-page of this edition he can say nothing, for the only copy he knew of was that described by Maittaire, and it had the title of the other edition with Soncinus' name prefixed to it. While putting that forward as an explanation of the variation or anomaly, Brunet passes over the difficulties which forthwith spring out of it. For example:

21. When he speaks of two editions, was there such a demand for the book as to bring it the length of a second edition? Is that the only way of accounting for the two colophons? Do two colophons necessitate two editions?

What has come of the "*De Rusconibus*" title-page, if it ever existed? Not one is known or mentioned. If it existed, why was it cancelled?

If there are two editions, as there are certainly two variants, which is the earlier? To my mind there can be but one reply: that of 1524, because the edition by Soncinus was *iterum excussa*. How Graesse with this phrase staring at him out of the title (copied from Brunet) which he gives, could call the 1524 edition the second, is a contradiction that only Graesse could clear up. It is this notion which has helped to land him in his confusion.

22. Consequent upon this, alternative hypotheses may be framed: Soncinus, either before or after printing the copies with his own title and colophon (I do not know that there is any way of telling), acquired surplus or remainder copies of the Venice, 1524, edition, and cancelling the "*De Rusconibus*" title-page, prefixed the title with his imprint and *iterum excussa*, without a qualm as to the discrepance between his new title and the old colophon. If this be right, it is remarkable that four (possibly seven) of the 1524 surplus copies with Soncinus' title have survived, while of Soncinus' own edition there are only three.

23. Or again, it may have been a conjoint edition—so many copies for one, so many for the other. In any case, however, there must have been two printings, because there are two colophons. The cancelling of a title-page is a simple matter, but the alteration of a colophon can be done only during printing. But if it were a conjoint edition, what explanation is to be given



of the fact that every copy known has Soncinus' title-page, which belongs to the second edition?

24. If, on the other hand, Graesse be followed, and the 1524 edition is to be considered the second, the difficulties are still greater, as is apparent from Graesse's own confusion.

25. Which, then, is most probable: that Soncinus got surplus copies of the 1524 edition, the first, and, cancelling the title-page, put on his own, and also printed off some fresh copies, cancelling the colophon and putting his own; or that the "De Rusconibus" got copies of the undated edition, the first, and, without disturbing the title-page, altered the colophon; in which case what explanation is to be given of the *iterum excussa*; or, lastly, that there was a conjoint edition with two colophons, in which case why is there only one title-page, and that of an apparently second edition?

Brunet's cut-and-dry explanation, therefore, it seems to me, does not meet all the difficulties of the case, if we are to rest satisfied with hypotheses.

26. At the bottom, however, of all these surmises lies one general assumption, namely, that the two sets of copies are absolutely identical, with the exception of the colophons. So far as one can judge from descriptions and collation, the two editions or variants *seem* identical, but it does not at all follow that they *are* identical; and that is the point which can be settled only by page-for-page comparison. In the course of my researches I have given instances of books apparently different, which were essentially identical,<sup>11</sup> as well as of reprints, which, by the ordinary modes of description, would appear to be identical, but which comparison shows at once to be different from end to end, and it may be so in the present case.

27. The conclusion accordingly that I have been impelled to is what was announced at the start—the truth can be arrived at only by a comparison of copies. The essential facts are wanting at present; suppositions, assumptions, opinions, inferences, which are given instead, are not merely worthless, they are a positive encumbrance and hindrance.

28. If Faustinus were writing now, he might have added to his poem a few hexameters on the vanity of bibliographical speculations, as illustrated by his own book.

JOHN FERGUSON.

University of Glasgow, January 6, 1889.

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<sup>11</sup> See the editions of Polydore Vergil's *De Inventoribus Rerum*, Rome, 1576, 1585, *Trans. Archæol. Soc. Glasgow* (N.S.), 1886, i. pp. 195-6.



## The Library of Sion College.\*

I AM glad that it is my privilege to welcome to the new Hall of our new buildings on the Victoria Embankment members of the Library Association, who on this occasion desire, I am told, rather to hear something of the recent history and present working of the Library of Sion College than to have opportunities afforded them of inspecting, or of hearing described, its principal bibliographical curiosities and treasures.

I am the better pleased to welcome here the goodly company which I see before me, because I feel sure of their sympathy, should I in the course of my remarks say a word or two about the labour and anxiety attending the re-arrangement upon a definite plan, in new quarters, of a library containing upwards of 67,000 volumes in all branches of literature.

Those whom I am addressing will know that as it is a task not to be enterprised nor taken in hand lightly and wantonly, so is it a task which can be carried through satisfactorily only when diligence and rapidity of work are controlled by constant vigilance; only when what has to be done is done with deliberation enough to secure as accurate an adherence to the scheme of classification adopted as the case admits of. Some of the public, and sometimes even managers of libraries, talk as if librarians could at will command the attendance of a fairy like to her who, by a wave of her light wand, sorted into separate heaps the mass of various coloured beads which were the cause of despair to the distressed princess—of a fairy who by a similar process shall, in an instant, range under their proper division, section and subsection, the tangled mass of volumes of Theology, History, Social Science Philology, Fine Arts, &c., which require to be sorted and arranged. I say this neither in self defence nor because here our Court of Governors have been unreasonable and exacting.

Since we began our work we have from time to time been complimented by competent judges upon the progress we have made—a progress which has seemed to them to be sufficiently satisfactory when special difficulties, which will be pointed out presently, are taken into account, and when it is remembered that though excellent in quality, the extra help available for all

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\* Read before the Library Association, March, 1889.

the extra work has been very limited in quantity; whilst so far from being over-exacting, the responsible Court of Governors has throughout been sympathetic, helpful and patient. Some voices, however, have occasionally made themselves heard in the air lamenting, if not complaining, that the work of arrangement should still remain incomplete. "Why!" we have heard it exclaimed, "had the work been ours to do, it would have been done long ago. A few industrious weeks would have seen the job through."

What librarian, what library committee, is there which does not at times hear the echoes of such voices? But some one may say, How came it about that the library of Sion College required to be re-arranged? Sion College is no new institution; its Library has long existed; it has had many good librarians in the past; the catalogue of one of them—of William Reading—is still in some demand.

Was it that, as is sometimes the case, the present librarian of Sion College was smitten with the mania of breaking up an old arrangement and classification of the library, which, if not scientifically unexceptionable, yet worked very well, in order to substitute for it some pet theory of classification of his own, which may, indeed, boast of the appearance of symmetry, but for practical utility is little, if at all, superior to that which it has superseded.

I need not tell you it was no wanton caprice upon my part which set me upon a self-imposed task. The work was forced upon me by circumstances. I cannot, however, plead that there were circumstances over which I was altogether without control. For they were due in great measure to my own persevering action whilst working together with certain other Fellows of Sion College, who had its best interests much at heart.

Some of you may possibly recollect that this is not the first occasion upon which the library of Sion College has been visited by Members of the Library Association. As long ago as October, 1877, when the first conference of librarians was being held in London, a considerable number of the distinguished men who attended it, not only our fellow-countrymen, but librarians of note and others interested in or responsible for library work on the Continent or in America, paid a formal visit to the College and its library, which were then still standing upon their old site in London Wall.



To them, whilst confessing that insufficiency of accommodation made it impossible for me to do full justice to the valuable contents of the library, or to continue even a semblance of systematic classification, I added, "It is, however, hoped that at no very distant time this insufficiency may be remedied by the erection of a new commodious and handsome building adapted to all the purposes of the College and Library upon the present or upon some more accessible site." I ventured to say this because I knew it was in the minds of those who were then joined with me in the management of the affairs of the College to effect this desirable improvement, should it prove feasible to do so. Assuredly many difficulties had to be overcome, such as the reluctance of the more conservative portion of the Fellows to sanction the necessary application to Parliament; the inability of the City of London without legislation—as to which there were then special hindrances—to do more than grant us a lease of the site we coveted, whilst the College, on the other hand, could only legally acquire a freehold; the difficulty of timely providing, without risk and a large debt, funds for the purchase of the new site and for the erection of the new buildings—seeing that the only source whence these funds could be provided was the sale of the old site upon which the old buildings were still standing. At length a satisfactory solution of all these difficulties was hit upon, and the private Act of Parliament necessary to give it effect was obtained.

But it was the necessity of disposing of the site upon which the old library stood before the new one could be erected which made it inevitable that the books should be packed up in almost countless cases of various shapes and sizes, and be stored in the Pantechicon for just eighteen months, instead of being moved directly from their old to their new quarters. This, of course, was fatal to the old classification. However, even had this necessity never arisen, it would have been barely practicable, it certainly would not have been desirable, to continue the old arrangement in the new buildings; the library had outgrown it, and so every way the re-arrangement of the library was forced upon me.

Nor was this sad necessity of being obliged to deprive for two years of their privilege those who had a right to the use of the books without its compensation.

The storing of the books for that period gave me a year and a-half in which to look about me, to examine carefully compet-



ing systems; to visit other libraries in the new world as well as in the old, to make up my mind as to which of these systems, if any, I would adopt in classifying the library in its new quarters. However, before I speak of the conclusion I arrived at, and the grounds of it, and the extent to which the work has been already carried out, and my present state of mind with regard to the plan I finally adopted, it may interest those present if I say a word about our old site in London Wall—the price at which it was bought more than two centuries and a-half ago, and the present value of it. I do this all the more freely because I am now given to understand—that which I did not know when I pledged myself to this address—that at any rate the general principles of our classification and the grounds upon which they were arrived at have already appeared in the Journal of the Library Association—information about them having been derived from a Report privately printed for the use of the Fellows of the College. The retrospect in which I propose now to indulge can hardly fail to interest, as illustrating the extraordinary rise which has taken place in the value of ground in outlying districts of the City of London, as well as at the very centres of its trading activity. Thomas White, the founder of Sion College, died March 1st, 1624; by March 7th, 1626, his executors had succeeded in obtaining a Charter of Incorporation for such a college of the “rectors, vicars, lecturers, and curates, of the City of London and its Suburbs,” as Thomas White had desired to found. So they were then on the look-out for a site upon which to erect such buildings as Dr. White had in his will intimated would be required for his College and Almshouse. By April 25th, 1627, they had completed the purchase for £2450, of about three-quarters of an acre of land, between Philip Lane and Aldermanbury, having a continuous frontage to both those thoroughfares, and a frontage for about two-thirds of the length of its northern boundary to London Wall. This latter frontage was not continuous, because the Church of St. Alphage stood at the eastern end of it, *i.e.*, at the angle formed by London Wall and Aldermanbury. This building was formerly the Church of Elsing Spital, but at the dissolution was purchased by the parishioners of St. Alphage, and by them converted into their parish church in lieu of that situated on the other side of the thoroughfare—in fact on the City Wall itself—in which they had hitherto worshipped, but which had then become ruinous.

The site purchased by the executors of Thomas White had also belonged to Elsing Spital; upon it were cloisters and the Lodgings of the Augustinian Canons whose duty it was to tend the homeless poor of London who thronged the great dormitory, which in 1331 William Elsing had in his Spital provided for them.

For the whole of this site and the buildings upon it, together with some lands which had belonged to Nutley Abbey in Buckinghamshire, and which were conveyed by the same deed after the dissolution, May 11th, 1530, Sir John Williams, keeper of the king's jewels, paid to the Crown £526 19s. 2d. We cannot of course say quite accurately how much of this sum represented the value of the lands of Nutley Abbey, how much of it was paid for the site of what was once Elsing's Spital, but it may fairly be assumed that by far the larger part of the amount was given for the London portion of the property, inasmuch as Sir John Williams found upon that portion buildings which he was able to adapt to his own use, and in which he lived in considerable state until they were burned to the ground not very long after he bought them. Before this property—which Sir John Williams purchased for, say, £426—was bought by the executors of Thomas White for £2,450, it had changed hands five times. And taking £426 as the price given for it by Sir John Williams, its value in the ninety-seven years which elapsed between the two transactions had increased a good deal more than five-fold. When, five or six years ago, the value of the same property had to be arrived at in order to assign its fair proportion to Sion Hospital, and to ascertain if, when the claims of the Hospital were satisfied, enough would remain to enable the College to purchase and build upon its present site, it was by the adequate test of successful sales of successive portions of it ascertained that the value of the whole had increased at least forty fold in the two centuries and a half which had elapsed since the purchase of the property by the executors of Thomas White. The discovery, that the value of the site in 1530 might in 1883 be multiplied by 240, relieved the Governors of the College of any further anxiety upon the subject of removal, as they were thus assured of sufficient funds for erecting on the present admirable position the new building which adorns it, the convenience and beauty of which, we may note by the way, are due to the architectural skill and taste of Sir Arthur Blomfield.



A word or two should now be said as to the peculiar arrangement of the portion of the new buildings devoted to library purposes, as it has a material bearing upon the work of arranging the Library.

Handsome and spacious as is the large upper Library—the chief room of the new buildings—it will not contain much more than half the books already in the possession of the College. The second half of the books had to be arranged in three book rooms, into which the part of the building behind the great hall on the ground floor and offices in the basement is divided. Of these three rooms that in the basement is much the largest, but the other two are of good size, and the three together provide ample accommodation, not only for the remainder of the books already possessed by, but for any accessions likely to come into the possession of, the library for many years to come. The question may possibly be asked, If the College was prepared to expend as large a sum as £59,000 upon its new site and buildings, instead of spending £32,000 on the site and £27,000 on the buildings, would it not have been better to be content with a cheaper site and so to have secured more space and to have had a larger sum to expend upon the new buildings? The only answer this question admits of is that there were urgent reasons why the new buildings should be erected within the limits of the city of London, and in a conspicuous accessible position. Given these conditions, it would seem that no way could they have been better complied with than by the acquisition of the present site, though the sum given for it was comparatively large.

It would have been quite in vain to hope to obtain any other site as eligible at a smaller price than was given for this. Nor, again, if such a site as this was from the necessity of the case to be acquired, is it at all conceivable that it could have been better utilised than this has been by Sir Arthur Blomfield. Still, as already intimated, it has to be admitted that the anxiety and difficulty attaching to the arrangement of the library has been much increased by the above described distribution of the Book-Rooms and by the consequent necessity of determining what divisions of the library should be represented in the principal room, and by what works these divisions should be there represented; of deciding what divisions should altogether or in part be relegated to the comparative obscurity of the lower rooms. In working out the



matter it has been thought upon the whole desirable, and it has been found practicable, to represent, it is hoped adequately, in the large upper room—the Library proper—Theology, History, Fine Arts, Philology, Literature, Bibliography and Literary History, represented in the classification by the letters A, B, G, H, K, L, respectively; whilst Philosophy, Social Science, Natural Science—C, D and E—are represented in the room comparatively easy of access immediately beneath the large library. The useful Arts F, it has been found, upon the whole, most convenient to place in the basement. With respect to the general principles of the arrangement, as I have already intimated, I need say but little now. What I had to say has been, as it seems, already in print. I need only remind you that the general plan of division, or rather of indicating the divisions, is taken from Mr. Melvil Dewey's decimal system, with the substitution of letters as above for the first number employed by him. Upon looking closer it will be found there is some difference in the nomenclature of the larger divisions, and a good deal of change in the sequence of subjects between Mr. Melvil Dewey's scheme and my adaptation. The reasons of my deviations from Mr. Melvil Dewey's scheme have been already given so need not be here repeated. I will, however, venture to say this much, that I am more than ever in my own mind convinced that more especially in all that concerns the sequence of subjects, the plan which I adopted has, to say the least of it, much to be advanced in its favour.

As far as the work of arrangement has gone hitherto—and I am happy to say it is now approaching its completion—I have found no reason whatever to be dissatisfied with it. Of course since the work has been in hand there has been considerable modification of details. The number of sub-sections in many cases has had to be largely increased (the temptation to multiply them to excess is at times strong, and has to be resisted); in other cases a proposed list of sub-sections has had to be largely modified on being found not to work at all, or has had to give place to another. Here and there a proposed sub-section or even section has on further consideration been suppressed altogether. Anyhow, whether for good or ill, the work goes on, and it is hoped that by Christmas next it may be completed, though a considerable quantity of sixteenth- and seventeenth-century divinity—not always easy to class minutely—has still to be dealt with.

At Christmas just three years will have elapsed since the Library was re-opened. If there be still those—as probably there are—who may deem three years a long time to spend over the classification of a library of 37,000 volumes, they are asked to bear in mind that during the whole time for which the library has been already open in its new quarters, the books, as fast as they could be made available (and such as have been much wanted, even when not already placed, have been diligently sought and generally found) have been circulated freely amongst those entitled to use the library, together with a considerable number of volumes obtained from Mudie's, whilst for the work connected with the lending department, as for all else that is done in classifying, keeping the catalogue up to date, substituting the new for the old press marks, &c., &c., no more than four pairs of hands have at any one time been available. Let me conclude by a brief recapitulation, with dates, of these recent events in our history. The old library was formally closed August 1st, 1884. The books were then packed and stored at the Pantechnicon until early in August, 1886. Between that date and the Christmas of the same year they were returned to the new building, unpacked and roughly sorted. There was a state opening of the new college by T.R.H the Prince and Princess of Wales on December 15th of the same year. On January 2nd of the next year, 1887, the library was opened to all those entitled to use it, and for their convenience it has been kept in full work ever since. It is satisfactory to be able to add, as a proof that what has been done has not been done in vain, that the number of those who now, by a very small subscription, qualify themselves for the privilege of borrowing books for home use, the number is nearly thrice what it was at its best times, before the College quitted London Wall for the Victoria Embankment.

WILLIAM H. MILMAN.



## Tudor Books at the British Museum.

THE books at the supplementary Tudor Exhibition at the British Museum are so interesting that even a bare catalogue of them would be a valuable addition to a bibliography of English history. Here we can only notice a few of the chief exhibits. Half a score of proclamations take the first place, including that of 1511 enjoining the use of the Long Bow, the edict of 1530, "of dampneing of erronious bokes and heresies and prohibitinge the having of the holy scripture translated into the vulgar tonges," and the wiser enactment of 1541 that "the Byble of the largest and greatest volume be had in euery churche." In this last occurs the proviso, interesting in the history of book prices, that "the sellers thereof shall not take for any of the sayde Bybles unbounde, aboue the pryce of ten shyllinges." In the case next to that containing the proclamations we note side by side the funeral sermons pronounced over Henry VII. and the Countess of Richmond, the same woodcut being used for each with only the substitution of a coffin for the King's effigy. Near to these are Henry VIII.'s anti-Protestant Treatises, the *Assertio Septem Sacramentorum*, and the letter to the Elector of Saxony "de cœrcenda abigendaque Lutherana factione & Luthero ipso." In the next case are no less than nine pamphlets on the King's divorce, and a fitting commentary on them in an account of "The noble tryumphant coronacyon of Quene Anne, wyfe unto the moost noble Kynge Henry VIII." This is followed by a description in Italian of the said Anne's execution; and a copy of "Polyanthea cum additionibus," open at a page which shows Henry's marginal notes on the heading "Matrimonium," bears further evidence to the King's not undeserved conjugal troubles.

For the reign of Edward VI. no printed books are shown, though there are manuscript extracts from his diary, and the MS. of his work on the Lord's Supper. The short and unhappy reign of Mary is rather richly illustrated by several rare works, one of which, the *Relacion muy verdadera de Antonio de Guaras*—an account of the events which followed on the death of Edward—has never been made use of by any historian. Mention may also be made of an Italian account of Philip's departure for England, and of another which describes the temporary and



unwilling return of England to Catholicism, under the title “ Il felicissimo ritorno del Regno d’Inghilterra alla Catholica unione & alla obedientia della sede Apostolica.” How unwilling this return was is testified by the title of a book which belongs to the next reign, viz., Stubbe’s “ Discoverie of a Gaping Gulf where into England is like to be swallowed by another French marriage, if the Lord forbid not the banes by letting her majesty see the sin and punishment thereof.” This was published in 1579, and cost both writer and printer their hands. Most of the other Elizabethan books are concerned with her numerous progresses and triumphal entries into London, Norwich, &c., not forgetting her famous visit to “ Killingworth ” or Kenilworth Castle. The nation’s grief for her loss is testified by several collections of funeral orations and elegies, the titles of some of which, however, show a rather unworthy desire to combine worship of the rising sun with lamentation for that which was set. The authors of “ Englandes Mourning Garment, worne here by plaine Shepherdes in memorie of their sacred mistresse Elizabeth,” are open to no such imputation, but H. P., who published “ A few Aprill drops showred on the hearse of the dead Eliza ” was apparently prepared to weep only for the short space of an April shower, while another writer was still more open in his curiously double-barrelled title, “ Sorrowes Joy, or a Lamentation for our late deceased Sovereign Eiizabeth, with a triumph for the prosperous succession of our gracious King James.”



## Queen Elizabeth and the Earl of Essex' Books.

ANY scrap of contemporary evidence which enables us to measure the amount of true regard which Queen Elizabeth bore towards a favourite, has a general historic interest. When the document which furnishes the scrap happens to have direct connection with that favourite's library, it has a special interest to the readers of these pages.

The Earl of Essex's study in Essex House was a small but comfortable apartment. On the floor—so says an inventory of his goods—lay “one Turkey foote carpet” worth 40s., and besides other necessary furniture was a “little table” (over which was a red velvet cover), a pair of “Andirones and a skreen.” It was in this study that Essex was charged with holding treasonable meetings during the spring prior to his arrest.

After his execution an inquiry was held at “Essex House without the Bar of the New Temple” on the first of April, 1601, under the presidency of Michael Stanhope. A considerable portion of the contents of the house was claimed by different people, and concerning the justice, or otherwise, of these claims the jury had much that is now curious and interesting to say. Concerning the Earl's study they state that “in quodam armariolo” called “his studdy” there were divers “libros impressos” called “printed books,” written in various languages; these, as Michael Stanhope told the jury, the Queen desired to have to her own use, and so no enumeration or valuation was made of them “prout decet”; “becoming” it may have been at the time, annoying it certainly is to us in the present day, who believe that the contents of a man's library furnish some clue to his true character.

Now, without entering into a controversy as to Queen Elizabeth's disposition, we may take it as admitted that she was a lady given to changing her mind. Did she in the short space of time that elapsed between the execution of her favourite and her own death, tire of the keepsake which we have seen she desired to possess? It looks very much as if she did, for in the “Bibill of Geomancy,” in the Duke of Northumberland's library, a note written in a seventeenth-century hand reads as follows: “In the reign of Q. Elizabeth, after the execution of the Earle

of Essex for high treason, his library with his other effects being confiscated *and sold*, this booke was a part of his library and was purchased from thence." The inference to be drawn from the note seems to be that Elizabeth kept Essex' books so short a time in her possession that it was not generally known that she had an even temporary possession of them, and it was supposed that they were sold with the Earl's other effects at Essex House.

W. J. HARDY, F.S.A.





## THE LIBRARY CHRONICLE.

### List of Places where the Public Libraries Acts have been Adopted, with Dates of Adoption.

THE following list of places where the Public Libraries Acts have been adopted will, I believe, be found almost complete.

In compiling it I have had the advantage of the knowledge of the members of the Library Association throughout the three kingdoms. These gentlemen queried a number of the places given on my preliminary list, and altogether suggested nearly forty additional places. A reply post-card sent to the town clerks of each of the doubtful localities brought answers that negatived many of these and confirmed a few. Several towns which have figured in other lists as having adopted the Acts, but which have not really attained to that felicity, do not appear in this list. I shall be glad to receive further corrections.

It should be mentioned that the libraries at Brighton, Douglas (Isle of Man), Liverpool, and Oldham are not under the Public Libraries Acts but under Local Acts, and it is also as well to note that at Coleraine, Cork, Moss-side, and one or two other places the Acts, although adopted, have not been put in operation.

I tender my sincere thanks to my correspondents for their help, courteously and promptly given, and especially to my good friend Mr. Cecil T. Davis, of the Public Library, Wandsworth.

THOMAS MASON.

Aberdeen (1884)	Bilston (1870)	Buxton (1886)
Aberystwith (1872)	Birkenhead (1856)	Cambridge (1853)
Airdrie (1856)	Birmingham (1860)	Canterbury (1858)
Alloa (1885)	Blackburn (1850)	Cardiff (1860)
Altrincham (1889)	Blackpool (1879)	Carlton (1887)
Ashton - under - Lyne (1869)	Bolton (1852)	Carnarvon (1887)
Aston Manor (1877)	Bootle (1883)	Cheltenham (1883)
Bangor (1871)	Bradford (1872)	Chester (1874)
Barking (1888)	Brentford (1889)	Chesterfield (1875)
Barrow - in - Furness (1881)	Bridgwater (1860)	Clitheroe (1878)
Bedford (1889)	Brierley Hill (1875)	Coleraine (1881)
Belfast (1882)	Brighton (1872)	Cork (1855)
Bideford (1877)	Bristol (1876)	Coventry (1867)
	Broughton (1889)	Croydon (1888)
	Burslem (1863)	Darlaston (1876)

Darlington (1883)  
 Darwen, Over (1871)  
 Denton & Haughton  
 (1887)  
 Derby (1871)  
 Devonport (1880)  
 Dewsbury (1887)  
 Doncaster (1868)  
 Douglas, I. of M. (1886)  
 Dublin (1877)  
 Dudley (1878)  
 Dumbarton (1881)  
 Dundalk (1856)  
 Dundee (1866)  
 Dunfermline (1880)  
 Ealing (1883)  
 Edinburgh (1886)  
 Exeter (1865)  
 Fleetwood (1887)  
 Folkestone (1878)  
 Forfar (1870)  
 Galashiels (1872)  
 Gateshead - on - Tyne  
 (1880)  
 Glossop (1888)  
 Gosport (1886)  
 Grangemouth (1887)  
 Halifax (1881)  
 Handsworth (1876)  
 Hanley (1886)  
 Harrogate (1886)  
 Hawick (1878)  
 Hereford (1872)  
 Hertford (1855)  
 Heywood (1874)  
 Hinckley (1888)  
 Hindley (1885)  
 Hucknall-Torkard  
 (1884)  
 Inverness (1877)  
 Ipswich (1853)  
 Kidderminster (1855)  
 Kingston-on-Thames  
 (1881)  
 Kingstown (1884)  
 Leamington (1856)  
 Leeds (1868)  
 Leek (1888)  
 Leicester (1848)  
 Leominster (1889)  
 Lichfield (1856)  
 Limerick (1889)  
 Liverpool (1852)  
 London, County of  
 Battersea (1887)  
 Bermondsey (1887)  
 Camberwell (1889)

Chelsea (1887)  
 Christchurch, South-  
 wark (1889)  
 Clapham (1887)  
 Clerkenwell (1887)  
 Fulham (1886)  
 Hammersmith  
 (1887)  
 Kensington (1887)  
 Lambeth (1886)  
 Putney (1887)  
 Rotherhithe (1887)  
 St. Margaret & St.  
 John, Westmin-  
 ster (1856)  
 St. Martin-in-the-  
 Fields (1887)  
 Streatham (1889)  
 Wandsworth (1883)  
 Whitechapel (1889)  
 Loughborough (1885)  
 Macclesfield (1874)  
 Maidstone (1855)  
 Manchester (1852)  
 Middlesbrough (1870)  
 Middleton (1887)  
 Middlewich (1889)  
 Millom  
 Moss Side (1887)  
 Nantwich (1887)  
 Nelson (1889)  
 Newark - on - Trent  
 (1881)  
 Newcastle - on - Tyne  
 (1874)  
 Newcastle - under -  
 Lyme (1883)  
 Newport, Mon. (1870)  
 Newton Heath (1887)  
 Northampton (1876)  
 Northwich (1883)  
 Norwich (1850)  
 Nottingham (1867)  
 Oldbury (1888)  
 Oldham  
 Oxford (1855)  
 Paisley (1867)  
 Penrith (1881)  
 Plymouth (1871)  
 Pontypridd  
 Poole (1885)  
 Portsmouth (1878)  
 Preston (1878)  
 Rathmines and Rath-  
 gar (1887)  
 Richmond, Surrey  
 (1879)

Reading (1877)  
 Rochdale (1870)  
 Rotherham (1876)  
 Runcorn (1881)  
 St. Albans (1878)  
 St. Helens, Lancashire  
 (1869)  
 Salford (1855)  
 Selkirk (1889)  
 Sheffield (1853)  
 Sittingbourne (1887)  
 Shrewsbury (1883)  
 Sligo (1866)  
 Smethwick (1876)  
 South Shields (1871)  
 Southampton (1887)  
 Southport (1875)  
 Stafford (1879)  
 Stalybridge (1888)  
 Stockport (1861)  
 Stockton-on-Tees  
 (1874)  
 Stoke - upon - Trent  
 (1875)  
 Sunderland  
 Swansea (1870)  
 Tamworth (1881)  
 Tarves (1884)  
 Thurso (1872)  
 Tipton (1883)  
 Todmorden  
 Tonbridge (1882)  
 Truro (1885)  
 Tunstall (1885)  
 Twickenham (1882)  
 Tynemouth (1869)  
 Walsall (1857)  
 Warrington (1847)  
 Warwick (1865)  
 Watford (1871)  
 Wednesbury (1876)  
 Welshpool (1887)  
 Weston - super - Mare  
 (1886)  
 West Bromwich (1870)  
 Whitehaven (1887)  
 Wick (1887)  
 Widnes (1886)  
 Wigan (1876)  
 Willenhall (1874)  
 Wimbledon (1883)  
 Winchester (1851)  
 Winsford (1887)  
 Wolverhampton (1869)  
 Worcester (1879)  
 Wrexham (1878)  
 Yarmouth, Great (1885)



## Library Notes and News.

*The Editor earnestly requests that librarians and others will send to him early and accurate information as to all local Library doings. The briefest record of facts and dates is all that is required, and all contributions used will be paid for.*

*In course of time the "Library Notes and News" will become of the utmost value to the historian of the Free Library movement, and it is therefore of the highest importance that every paragraph should be vouched for by local knowledge.*

ALTRINCHAM, CHESHIRE.—The Local Board of this town have approached the Local Board of the adjoining district of Bowdon with the object of obtaining the co-operation of that district in establishing a free library. The answer received, however, was to the effect that inasmuch as it appeared that the Public Libraries Acts did not give power to two or more Local Boards for the purpose of jointly establishing and maintaining a public library, no steps could be taken. Here is another blunder in the Acts which remains to be rectified.

CHELTENHAM.—The Misses Day, daughters of the late Dr. Francis Day, C.I.E., have intimated their intention of presenting to the Cheltenham Free Library, as a permanent memorial of their father, the whole of the library of natural history which he had collected during his lifetime. The library consists of about 1,300 volumes, and the collection of works relating to fish is almost unique.

DEWSBURY.—On December 21st the reading-room in connection with the Free Library was opened by the Mayor (Alderman G. Clay), in the temporary premises known as the Old Wheelwright Grammar School. The library is not yet sufficiently completed to be open for the use of the public, but about 7,000 volumes have already been obtained. As soon as sufficient funds are forthcoming it is intended to erect suitable premises in a central position.

EXETER.—The January part of *Notes and Gleanings* (Exeter) contains the terms of the interesting will of the late Mr. Kingdon, by which the Devon and Exeter Museum and Free Library will greatly benefit.

HASTINGS.—Mr. H. Barlow Webb has offered £1,000 towards the conversion of the reference library of the Brassey Institute into a free library, and an agitation is on foot to obtain the adoption of the Public Libraries Acts.

KINGSTON-ON-THAMES.—A movement is started to erect new buildings for the Free Library. The amount required is about £5,000, of which over £2,100 is already provided for. When the Free Libraries Committee can see their way clear to obtaining the £5,000 they will ask the Corporation to pull down Clattern House, and erect on the site a building worthy of the town.

KIRKWALL.—The Kirkwall Town Council on December 18th unanimously agreed to appoint a Committee to prepare a report on the question of adopting the Public Libraries Acts.

LIVERPOOL.—John Byrne, "a respectably-dressed, middle-aged man," was, on December 20th, brought before the Liverpool magistrates charged with cutting plates from a number of valuable books in the Picton Reading Room. Mr. Peter Cowell, the librarian, stated that it was difficult to estimate the damage done to the books, but it could not be less than



£10. The catalogue price of the books was £20. One of the books from which plates had been taken was a book which had been purchased by the Library Committee, secondhand, for £3 3s, but it was a somewhat rare book, and it would be difficult to say whether it could be replaced. When arrested the prisoner's statement was that he "wanted the plates for a work he was writing," and, when brought before Alderman Livingston, who was on the bench, he put in a whining appeal to be dealt leniently with "at this merciful season." This appeal had its effect, and the perpetrator of this abominable abuse of the privileges of a reader in a free library escaped with a mere fine of £5.

LONDON : ALLAN LIBRARY.—This library, which is under the control, we believe, of the Wesleyan Conference, has just received some valuable additions from the libraries of the late Rev. Paul Orchard and the late Rev. Richard Brown.

LONDON : BRITISH MEDICAL ASSOCIATION'S LIBRARY.—This library already contains over 2,000 volumes and is rapidly increasing. £300 was spent last year in works of reference. The library is for the use of the members of the British Medical Association, and is housed at their offices in the Strand.

LONDON : CHELSEA.—A "well-dressed man" named Weston Perryman, described as a gilder, of Walton Street, Chelsea, was charged before Mr. Partridge, on December 30th, with wilfully and maliciously damaging a magazine in the reading room of the Chelsea Free Library, the property of the commissioners. Mr. J. H. Quinn, the librarian, said that printed notices were posted up in the library calling attention to the fact that any wilful damage was, by statute a misdemeanour, rendering an offender liable to summary arrest and imprisonment for a period not exceeding six months. Mr. Joseph Bissett, a student of science, deposed that he saw prisoner tear a leaf out of a copy of *Chambers' Journal* and put it in his pocket. Witness, who had been waiting for the periodical, informed the librarian, who gave the prisoner into custody. Prisoner said he was very sorry, and did not know he was committing any sin. Mr. Partridge: "You must know that it was a disgraceful thing to do, and there were the notices all over the library I fine you 40s., and 8d., the value of the book, and in default of distress one month's imprisonment."

LONDON : CHELSEA.—The Kensal Town Branch Library, in connection with the Chelsea Public Libraries, was opened on January 16th, when the Rev. Frederic Relton delivered an inaugural address.

LONDON : STREATHAM.—The polling of the parish of Streatham, which took place towards the end of December, on the question whether a public library should be established in accordance with the provisions of the Public Libraries Acts, has resulted in 2,470 votes being recorded in favour of and 1,326 against, giving a majority in favour, of 1,144. This result enables Streatham to avail itself of the offer made by Mr. Henry Tate, of Park Hill, Streatham, to build a library at a cost of £5,000, conditional upon the ratepayers voting for the imposition of a penny rate to provide books and the annual expenses.

LONDON : TOTTENHAM.—A poll on the question of adopting the Public Libraries Acts was taken in December, when, owing to lack of adequate notice, only 226 voters, out of nearly 8,000 on the roll, came to exercise their franchise. There were 70 ratepayers in favour of the adoption of the Acts and 156 against the proposal.

LONDON : WANDSWORTH.—An effort is being made to extinguish the debt of £4,000 which hangs over the Public Library, involving an annual

charge of nearly £220, thus crippling the finances of the library. Dr. Longstaff, who so generously built the commodious reading-room, has again given striking evidence of his interest in the institution. He has promised to give £2,000 on condition of the balance being raised before 31st March next—the ninety-first anniversary of his birth. Dr. G. B. Longstaff, L.C.C., has promised that if his father's challenge is met he will convey to the commissioners, free of cost, the piece of land adjoining the library on West Hill, so as to secure light to the reading room, and to give space for possible future extensions.

MANCHESTER.—On January 13th Mr. Alfred Darbyshire, F.R.I.B.A., delivered a lecture at the Free Reference Library on "Secular Architecture," directing special attention to the fine collection of architectural works contained in the library. It will be followed by lectures on "Ecclesiastical Architecture" by Mr. Percy Worthington, and on "Sculpture," by Mr. John Cassidy.

NOTTINGHAM.—The Central Free Library, after being closed for about eighteen months on account of defects in the building, was re-opened on New Year's Day by the Mayor of Nottingham (Alderman Goldschmidt), who expressed the hope that before long the library would be thrown open on Sunday afternoons. The attendance at the institution for some days after the re-opening averaged 2,200 per day.

PETERHEAD.—The following was the result of the recent plebiscite in regard to the adoption of the Public Libraries Acts. The number of electors on the roll is 1672—absent, removed, dead, &c., 304—leaving 1368, who were canvassed. Of these 1250 answered "Yes," 76 "No," and 42 were neutral. Peterhead was offered £1,000 by Mr. Carnegie on condition that it adopted the Libraries Acts.

ST. MARYCHURCH, DEVON.—An effort is being made to secure the adoption of the Public Libraries Acts for this place. Mr. W. H. K. Wright, of Plymouth, addressed a meeting on the subject on December 20th.

SITTINGBOURNE, KENT.—The Queen has presented a copy of her journal, with autograph inscription, to the Sittingbourne Free Library.

STONEHAVEN.—At Stonehaven, in the far north of Scotland, it has been decided at a public meeting to adopt the Public Libraries Acts. Mr. A. Carnegie has offered assistance.

STRATFORD-ON-AVON.—The Indian Government has sent a valuable contribution to the Shakespeare Memorial Library at Stratford-on-Avon. It consists of all the translations of Shakespeare's works published in India.

WORKINGTON, CUMBERLAND.—The Public Libraries Acts have been adopted here.

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Mr. Andrew Carnegie continues in the *North American Review* his observations on the best ways in which a millionaire can use his wealth. This is what he has to say about public libraries:—"The result of my own study of the question, What is the best gift which can be given to a community? is that a free library occupies the first place, provided the community will accept and maintain it as a public institution, as much a part of the city property as its public schools, and, indeed, an adjunct to these. It is, no doubt, possible that my own personal experience may have led me to value a free library beyond all other forms



of beneficence. When I was a boy in Pittsburg, Colonel Anderson of Alleghany—a name I can never speak without feelings of devotional gratitude—opened his little library of four hundred books to boys. Every Saturday afternoon he was in attendance himself at his house to exchange books. No one but he who has felt it can know the intense longing with which the arrival of Saturday was awaited, that a new book might be had. My brother and Mr. Phipps, who have been my principal business partners through life, shared with me Colonel Anderson's precious generosity, and it was when revelling in these treasures that I resolved, if ever wealth came to me, that it should be used to establish free libraries, that other poor boys might receive opportunities similar to those for which we were indebted to that noble man."

### Obituary.

Mr. David Geddes, the librarian of the Blackburn Free Library, who died suddenly on 22nd October last at the age of fifty-four, was a man of varied accomplishments, and in his comparatively early death his adopted town has lost a most useful life. He was a native of Thurso in the north of Scotland and, for a youth in his position in life, received an excellent education. When he came to Blackburn, twenty-five years ago, it was in the capacity of head-gamekeeper to Mr. Joseph Feilden, of Witton Park, with whom he remained until March, 1867, when he was selected to succeed Mr. W. A. Abram as librarian and curator of the Free Library and Museum, at that time an institution of but modest proportions. In the work connected with the erection of the present handsome building he took a very active part. He proved himself a well-read man, especially versed in science, and a singularly capable museum curator, possessing a remarkable knowledge of what was likely to be of interest and of educational value to the public. He had good taste in art and books, and used it to advantage. Outside his official duties he took a keen and energetic interest in many of the local educational and philanthropic institutions, and in this connection he acquired considerable influence by his good sense and well-directed zeal. In private life he was esteemed a delightful companion, full of contagious knowledge which came not from books alone, but from intelligent observation of nature.

His funeral, which took place at the Blackburn Cemetery on 25th October, was attended by the Mayor, the members of the Library Committee, and others, and the service was conducted by the Rev. Dr. Grosart, the well known editor of Elizabethan literature.

The Free Library Committee have resolved to perpetuate the memory of their late librarian by placing his portrait, in oils, in the Library, the cost of which is to be defrayed by small subscriptions from the public.



## **Record of Bibliography and Library Literature.**

**How to Catalogue a Library.** By Henry B. Wheatley. Second edition. London: Elliot Stock, 1889. 8vo, pp. xii., 268.

We welcome with real pleasure the speedy appearance of a second edition of this admirable little book. We take it for granted that every librarian whose heart is in his work has by this time at least glanced through it, and we wish that its perusal could be made compulsory for all laymen called in any way to take part in library administration as committeemen, commissioners under the Libraries Act, or the like. Their task would certainly not be a heavy one, for Mr. Wheatley is never dull, and has relieved his work with several interesting discussions, such as those on the "Battle of the Rules" at the British Museum, and on the real authorship of academic dissertations. No one cataloguer will ever bind himself to accept absolutely the doctrines of another, and we think that if space allowed we could bring forward arguments of some weight against Mr. Wheatley's rules for the treatment of works issued under pseudonyms or initials, his preference for the title rather than the family name of peers, and his advocacy for the retention of the quasi-class-heading of "Catalogues," which is at last being abandoned even at the British Museum. But Mr. Wheatley's reasons, even when they fail to convince, always command our respect, and we congratulate him heartily on the success of a work which has the rare merit of combining accurate scholarship with clear and pleasant exposition.

**Bibliotheca Bibliographica Italiana.** Catalogo degli scritti di bibliologia, bibliografia e biblioteconomia pubblicati in Italia e di quelli risguardanti l'Italia pubblicati all'estero. Compilato da G. Ottino e G. Fumagalli. Roma: Loreto Pasqualucci, editore 1889. pp. xxiv., 431. [Only 400 copies printed. Price 20 lire.]

It is impossible to praise this work too highly. In its 4339 entries (all set out in the fullest manner) it attempts, and, as far as we have tested it, with most admirable success, to catalogue every bibliography compiled by an Italian author, and every foreign bibliography which deals, even in an appendix, with an Italian subject. Italians are good bibliographers, and these classified lists of their bibliographies will be useful enough; but by foreigners the real value of this book will be held to consist chiefly in its exhaustive lists of bibliographical works on Italian subjects. Some idea of the extent of these may be gathered from a statement of the number of entries given under certain headings. Of works on the Florentine printers, thirty are mentioned; on those of Venice, fifty-seven; of Dante we have fifty-two bibliographies; of Petrarch, ten; of Christopher Columbus, eight; of bibliographies, or bibliographical works about Venice, there are twenty-three. Italian history and literature in general are treated on a corresponding scale. Again, the bibliography is not confined to modern Italy, so that lovers of Horace and Virgil will find it as useful as students of Dante. In conclusion, we note with interest that this excellent work appears to be the first result of a bibliographical competition set on foot by the Italian Minister of Public Instruction, a competition in which it is needless to say that it duly obtained a prize.

The Bibliography (biographical and topographical) of Ackworth School. By John H. Nodal. Manchester: F. Nodal & Co. 1889. 8vo, pp. viii., 52.

Bibliography of Montrose Periodical Literature. [By James G. and William Low.] Montrose, George Walker [1889]. 8vo, pp. 48.

We notice these two works together as very hopeful indications of an increasing interest in local bibliography. Ackworth School, which ten years ago attained its centenary, has numbered some notable men among its scholars, among the chief being John Bright, William Howitt, and the late Mr. Firth. This little bibliography of their works and of books relating to the district ought to encourage literary interests in the school, and so furnish its future chronicler with fresh materials. In the Bibliography of Montrose Periodical Literature the account of the troubles which befel the *Montrose Review* for issuing, without the proper stamp, a special number containing the news of the Battle of Waterloo, is perhaps the most interesting incident recorded. The bibliography as a whole is rather melancholy, for Montrose periodicals seem to have been peculiarly numerous and peculiarly ill-fated.

Literary Landmarks. A Guide to Good Reading for Young People, and Teachers' Assistant. By Mary E. Burt. Boston and New York: Houghton, Mifflin & Co., 1889. 8vo, pp. 152.

We mention this book in our list of bibliographies rather for the sake of its title than its contents. A trustworthy "guide to good reading for young people" would be a very useful addition to many libraries, but Miss Burt's book cannot be at all warmly recommended. It is not wise for anyone to attempt to classify the works of great writers into "Literary Bibles," "Approaching Literary Bibles," &c., &c., and Miss Burt's evident delight in the "comparative mythology" of stories would hardly commend itself to most "young people." A long list of recommended works at the end of her book will be of little use on this side of the Atlantic, where Mr. Ruskin's works are *not* obtainable as "cheap pamphlets." All the same, Miss Burt's essay contains many sound and thoughtful remarks, and will be more useful in its second capacity as a "teacher's assistant" than as a guide to reading.

Working Men and Free Public Libraries. A plea for fuller opportunities of culture, with statistical table of "Free Public Libraries" now open in London. By S. Hales, Librarian of the Toynbee Free Students' Library, East London. London: W. Reeves, 1889. 8vo, pp. 8.

We do not know how far Mr. Hales' pamphlet contributed to the recent triumphant adoption of the Library Act in Whitechapel, but we can heartily commend its eloquent exposition of the blessings which a good library can be made to bestow. Mr. Hales' statement of his case is as admirable as it is concise.

PUBLIC LIBRARIES: MONTHLY RETURN OF ISSUES, &c.  
DECEMBER, 1889.

Name and No. of Libraries in operation.	LENDING LIBRARIES.						REFERENCE LIBRARIES.				Sunday. Daily Average Attendance.
	No. of Borrowers.	No. of days Books lent.	No. of Vols.	Issue for Month.	Days Open.	Daily Average.	No. of Vols.	Issue for Month.	Days Open.	Daily Average.	
Battersea 1 ...	3,893	14	5,513	8,423	24	351					
Brighton 1.....	6,263	14	19,489	6,439	23	280	12,285	2,921	23	127	
Bristol 6 .....	18,654	19½	58,769	27,769	19½	1,424	15,412	16,126	22	733	
Cardiff 1 .....	6,269	14	17,245	11,302	23	491	13,324	970	23	42	
Chelsea 2 .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	3,853	867	29	30	385
Clapham 1.....	2,808	14	3,975	6,684	21	318	592	558	21	27	
Clerkenwell 1	2,374	15	8,676	6,080	24	253	1,128				
Fulham 1 .....	5,321	14	4,733	8,579	20	428	2,370	236	20	11	209
Glasgow: Mitchell 1 .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	84,600	25,748	25	1,030	
Hanley 1 .....	1,817	10 & 7	5,734	5,890	24	245	2,071	499	24	21	
Kensington 3*	?	14	13,941	9,400	22	447	See Lending	637	29	23	71
Paddington 1	...	...	...	...	...	...	3,050	174	29	6	78
Portsmouth 1	11,242	7 & 14	17,863	21,462	24	894	2,990	296	24	12	
Southwark 1...	?	7	2,200	507	20	25	...	292	24	12	
Wandsworth 1	3,421	7	7,476	6,524	19	343	3,196	241	19	13	
Westminster 2	3,883	14	21,769	ending Dec. 25 7,112	25	284	See Lending	ending Dec. 25 5,483	25	219	
Wimbledon 1	2,350	7	5,653	6,648	24	277	1,853	556	24	23	

\* Central Library attendance not counted: Lending Department not open.



## Library Association Record.

THE last Monthly Meeting was held in the Library of Gray's Inn on January 13th, at 8 p.m.

The following new members were elected :—William Henry Dutton, Newcastle, Staffs. ; Francis Edwards, High Street, W. ; Thomas Greenwood, Stoke Newington ; Wilhelm Müller, Wellington Street, W.C. ; Henry R. Plomer, Cornwall Road, W. ; Miss C. M. Ridding, Byland House, Clapton.

No paper was read, but the time was not unfruitfully spent in discussing the affairs of the Association, and in response to an appeal from the chair (Mr. Tedder) several papers were promised.

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A meeting of the Council will be held in the Free Reference Library, Manchester, on Tuesday, February 4th, at 3 p.m.

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### SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING.

The President has received a requisition, duly signed by the required number of members, asking him to call a Special General Meeting to consider the following proposals :—

(1) To rescind Rule 5, and to substitute :—"Any person may be elected a subscribing member at any Monthly Meeting after notice of proposal given at the previous meeting."

(2) To rescind Rule 6, and to substitute for it the second part of Rule 5 as it now stands :—"Libraries and other institutions may become members on payment of the annual subscription in like manner as if they were individuals, and shall be entitled yearly to nominate a delegate to attend the meetings of the Association, who may vote and in every way act as an ordinary member of the Association."

The President has accordingly arranged that, instead of the ordinary Monthly Meeting a Special General Meeting shall be held on Monday, February 10th, in the Library of Gray's Inn, at 8 p.m. As no special circular will be issued, Members will please to regard this notice as personal, and they are hereby requested to attend.

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### "THE LIBRARY" FOR 1889.

This volume, containing papers read before the Association, a Report of the Proceedings at the last Annual Meeting, and an elaborate index to the whole of the contents (prepared by Mr. William May, chief of the Public Library, Birkenhead) can now be had, in a tasteful binding, from the publisher. Mr. Stock will also supply cases for binding members' own copies, for one shilling each.

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Editorial Communications and Books for Review should be addressed to the Editor—Advertisements and Business Letters to the Publisher, 62, Paternoster Row, E.C.

## A Political Club Library.<sup>1</sup>

THE intention of the founders of the Gladstone Library at the National Liberal Club was that it should be mainly historical and political. There can be no doubt of the soundness of the principle which thus bases politics on history. If I may quote some words which I have used elsewhere:—"In proportion as mankind advances in a scientific conception of humanity and of the laws which govern its progress, so will men learn the importance of studying present problems in the light of past experience; and the history of men and of movements in past centuries will more and more furnish food for reflection, and thereupon motives for action." In a well-known phrase of Professor Freeman's, "History is past politics, and politics present history." But I venture to think that the relation between the two is even more intimate. Politics are the embryonic stage of history. The present, as to-day continually passes into yesterday, is contemporary history. Politics are not history, but are the strivings of the present to make the history of the future; they are contained in the womb of present history, but we cannot say that they will emerge thence alive. Many of the embryos of politics, are, as everyone knows, still-born, in spite of the promise of fecundity which once they gave; others are born into the historical world, and, in the course of a longer or shorter life of usefulness or of mere obstruction, beget their own political children, and then find their place in the stillness of the historical past, and for the most part are soon utterly forgotten. The point, however, of my illustration is this, that the connection between history and politics is a closer one than that indicated by the mere relation between present and past time, and that therefore, in the study of political problems, their historical parentage must never be left out of sight; while in regard to the problems themselves, we must recognise their necessarily plastic character, their liability to assume a character as yet unforeseen from the influence of the environment into

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<sup>1</sup> Read before the Library Association, June 17th, 1889.

which they will be born, while that environment itself, we must remember, is only in process of formation, and will not be precisely that which we see around us to-day. It would be interesting to follow up this general idea by taking certain concrete political questions, such as that of the relations of Ireland to Great Britain, the connection between Church and State, and so on, and to consider what light it would throw on their probable ultimate solution; but I must be content to have submitted it only as furnishing a guide as to what should be the contents of a political library; and the upshot of it is this, that in seeking to form a prudent judgment on political problems we need not only the vast storehouse of past history available in a form for convenient and ready reference, but we need, even more, easy access to present facts, to trustworthy and intelligible statistics—to whatever may inform us accurately as to the immediate conditions of the given problem, and if possible may even enable us to make a reasonable forecast of what those conditions will become in the not distant future. More than this is unattainable.

A political library then should be, first and foremost, a nineteenth-century library. No doubt it would be of immense advantage to our political party if we could make it a twentieth-century library; but, that being impossible, we must be content with the nineteenth, always taking care that we are well up to date. Ancient history is all very well in its own proper place, and it may even be serviceable to illustrate contemporary political questions. It is pleasant, no doubt, to be familiar with the life and thought of ancient Athens or Rome, and like the late Matthew Arnold to speak of Mr. Gladstone as Cleon, or with Prince Bismarck to describe Lord Randolph Churchill as "a twopenny-halfpenny Catiline." These things give an agreeable classical spice to the treatment of our somewhat prosaic problems. But they do nothing really to clarify the situation, since the conditions, old and new, are so entirely diverse.

Of course I do not imply by the emphasis placed on the nineteenth century that other centuries are to be excluded. I only mean that the first aim of those whose business it is to fill our library shelves should be to start with the nineteenth century, and to make that fairly complete; and then, as opportunity offers, to work backwards, and to illustrate the past with the best standard works available. And among standard works I should include original authorities, and historical tracts and



pamphlets, whatever might be their literary value. But one thing should be strenuously avoided, and that is the spirit of mere antiquarianism or of bibliomania, which would squander the somewhat slender funds available on literary treasures, rare editions, early printing, choice old binding, and the like—things which have their value, as I should be among the first to admit, and their legitimate place elsewhere, but which in a library of the type now under consideration would be altogether beside the purpose.

Proceeding, then, to certain details of the proper contents of a political library, and passing over some about which there can be no question—such as Parliamentary history and debates, political speeches and memoirs, foreign treaties, Acts of Parliament, State papers, and the like—I should like to make an apology for the binding and preservation on a liberal scale of periodical publications. On the principle of being up to date, nothing better deserves to be placed in a political library than reviews, magazines, and certain of the more important weekly journals, as they are somewhat incorrectly called. Further, it must be borne in mind that most of the best writing on political questions now appears in the monthly magazines, and not only the best, but the most influential, for it is far more widely read than ninety-nine-hundredths of the books and pamphlets that are published. What in the seventeenth or eighteenth century would have been printed as a tract, and, if well written and if dealing with some burning question, would have had a wide circulation and would have made its mark on affairs, would now, as a matter of course, appear in the *Nineteenth Century*, the *Contemporary*, or the *Westminster*. Nor is this all. I said the magazines contained most of the best of the contemporary writing, and this is strictly true, for it is mainly the writing of specialists that has undergone editorial revision. But, further, in the hurry of modern life, and especially of modern political life, few men are able to devote time and research to the first-hand study of whatever subject may at the moment be uppermost, and we all have to trust to specialists. Magazine articles are mainly monographs by specialists, who can give us the case in a nutshell. And I will say it—though I say it with the fear before mine eyes of the learned men who will rise when I have finished my paper and will criticise this most heterodox opinion—I say that when a man's general and professional education has been completed on a fairly liberal scale, there are very few subjects on

which all that it is worth while for him to know cannot be contained in twenty octavo pages. Of course, I am not speaking of the pleasures of reading, as such, or of the influence exerted on the character by the study of literature; I am speaking only of knowledge in the sense of mere information.

There is only one other plea I have to urge on behalf of periodical publications, and that is in reply to the objection that if you keep and bind and shelve them, you soon fill your library with stuff which (however valuable) is buried behind its uniformly bound covers. Well, as to the first part, I think I know a library where worse things might be done than the filling of the shelves; and as to the second, that was very true until six years ago, when the immortal Poole published his *Index to Periodical Literature*, that colossal monument to American industry in the task of facilitating reference to monographs on every conceivable subject; and this book we have in our Library, and I have been careful to obtain the supplemental volume, and the quarterly parts, which bring it up to date; so that nothing in our library is on the whole better catalogued and indexed than such sets of periodicals as we have. I confess that when I turn over the pages of Poole's *Index* I wish we had more of them. He began with cataloguing some two hundred and thirty periodicals, English and American, dating from the year 1802; and later, nearly three hundred were included in his lists; but the number now indexed by the American Library Association is considerably smaller (about one hundred), but being more select, it is, I think, in proportion more valuable. The present aim (as stated in a prefatory note) is to give "a full set of references on the vital questions of the day, in philosophy, social science, politics and literature;" and a glance down any one of the columns shows how well this promise is fulfilled, and how serviceably perhaps every one of the periodicals indexed might find a place on the shelves of a political library. The entries are at present, however, only of service to us here when they refer to the *Edinburgh*, *Westminster*, *Quarterly*, *Fortnightly*, *Nineteenth Century* and *Contemporary*—all of which we have complete. I should add that the accession to the *Index* of the contents of the principal French and German periodicals is necessary to make it perfect; but these being added (as undoubtedly they will be some day), a very serviceable and by no means an uninteresting library might be made of periodicals alone, with an index like Poole's for its catalogue. No library would have its contents in the matter of subjects more readily accessible.



What I have been saying about periodical literature applies, I fear, also to Parliamentary papers, as these have an annual officially-published index. The index, however, not being published till the August of the following year, the great mass of the papers have lost their interest (which is for the most part ephemeral) by the time it appears; but in a library professedly political it is almost essential to bind the whole; especially as one never can be sure what subject that seems dead and buried one year may not the next become a burning question. In practice, however, I have found that Parliamentary papers are seldom asked for except within the first month of their publication. Indeed, they are mostly asked for before they have been published, a report being sometimes laid on the table of the House in MS., or early copies being sent to some of the principal newspapers some days before they are issued to the public.

As to pamphlets, I have already remarked that much of the most important matter which in old times would have been published in pamphlet form, now sees the light through the medium of periodical publications. Nevertheless there appear from time to time vigorous and important *brochures* on political questions, which their authors may not have cared to submit to editorial supervision, or which editors may not have had the wisdom to accept, and these it is certainly the business of a political library to procure and to keep. And since nothing is more difficult to obtain than a pamphlet when once out of print, or even before it is out of print, since booksellers will not trouble about what costs but a trifle, I will note in passing that well-wishers of our Library would do a great service by sending us copies of such publications, which are seldom advertised, and are often printed by local men, and so may not come under a librarian's notice.

As to the arrangement and *preservation* of pamphlets, the system of storing them in boxes—the one I have adopted, or, more correctly, am in process of adopting—has various advantages, as it admits of subjects being added to, or of being subdivided anew, without inconvenience; but binding is of course much safer, for it is a matter of experience in all libraries that readers who have the most unexceptionally high principles, and who would never dream of removing a heavy book or a bound volume of magazines, may yet, in a moment of abstraction, slip an interesting little pamphlet into their pockets; and what is thus lost can perhaps never be replaced.

I pass rapidly over certain other sections of a political



club library's contents, about which there can be no possible question. History in all its branches—ancient and modern, English, Scotch, Irish, European, Colonial, American and Oriental—must of course be liberally represented. The same is true of political economy, which should not, in a library, be interpreted in its narrower scientific sense, as referring only to the somewhat mechanical laws of supply and demand, but should cover the whole field of sociology, as well as the less elastic sub-divisions of commerce, finance, statistics, and the like. I have reason to hope that this section in our Library will soon become, with the aid of members of the Political Economy Circle, one of the most complete and important collections in London. It is essentially the field of study for the serious politician; and here, if anywhere, the reputation of a political library for usefulness may be won.

As to encyclopædias, dictionaries, concordances, and all similar works of reference, the only thing to be said is, the more numerous they are, the more various they are, and the more recent they are, the better. On the other hand, in regard to law books, speaking under correction, I submit that, unless there is a constant determination to devote a large proportion of the space, and a large proportion of the funds, to this department of literature (if literature it be), it is best excluded altogether. Here, in London, at any rate, admirable law libraries are within easy reach of all who have occasion to make professional use of them, and we could not compete with them to any purpose. Complete collections of statutes, whether repealed or in force, should no doubt be found in a political library, as also works on jurisprudence, both historical and scientific; but the technical study of the law is another matter.

There is, however, a department of literature—and a very important one—concerning which one may have very serious doubts whether it has rightly a place in a political library or not; and I trust that the discussion which follows will elicit some expression of opinion on this question. I refer to fiction.

To begin with, the writings of certain novelists would presumably be found there, because they belong to standard literature; and a library, political or otherwise, can hardly be termed a library, if it exclude on principle anything, either in prose or poetry, that is acknowledged as a classic. Then again, novels written by a prominent politician—such as those of Lord Beaconsfield—would doubtless be admitted, apart from all

question of their literary merit, on account of the position occupied by their author. But I am thinking rather of the fiction of the day, and whether it should be excluded entirely or receive a discriminating welcome. The former alternative is the present practice in the Gladstone Library; the latter is what I am about to advocate. Of course I am not advocating the admission of ephemeral trash—in other words, I am for the exclusion of perhaps nine-tenths of the novels which form the stock-in-trade of the circulating libraries. But we have to recognise the steady growth of a variety of fiction, styled by the Germans "*Tendenz Novellen*"—stories written with a definite purpose, to inculcate some doctrine, philosophical, theological, social or political; and here a policy of exclusion is surely suicidal. For, without going so far as an eminent French writer, who holds that the time is at hand when all knowledge will be communicated beneath the guise of fiction, it is clear that this method of stating and recommending new views on the most serious subjects is growing in popularity, and that not to recognise the fact is to cut oneself off from one of the most agreeable sources of information—and of information, too, which has often an important bearing on political questions. Take, for example, the case of *Robert Elsmere*. Of course its tendency is mainly theological, and this is developed at tedious length. But the story is a picture of what actually occurs in that ecclesiastical world of which the professional politician knows so little; and if he would ponder it over, it would throw a light on one aspect of the relations between Church and State, about which no statistics published by the Liberation Society can ever give any information. He would find that the State is less liberal than the Church in its unwillingness to repeal an Act of Uniformity passed 220 years ago: and that it is the oppressive burden of this Act, and not the lack of intelligent sympathy on the part of ecclesiastical superiors, which sometimes compels a clergyman, for conscience' sake, to withdraw from his professional position, and to run the risks of beginning his life anew outside the Established communion. Fiction, then (I take it), that aims at illustrating philosophical, ecclesiastical and social problems, has as legitimate a place in a political library as have Parliamentary debates. Of the two, the fiction is probably the more true to the realities of life.

I must be brief in what I add about the apparatus and management of a political library—indeed, there is not very



much that would differentiate it markedly from what is required in other libraries of similar size. There should, however, be special facilities for rapid reference, for it may be assumed that a politician is in a hurry. He has no time to study treatises; he does not come provided with the names of authors whose works he wishes to turn over. He does not always want to encumber himself with too profound a knowledge of the question that is the controversy of the day; he would be paralysed for action if he were to become familiar with all the facts and arguments urged by the other side. He wants to refresh his memory, to verify quotations of which his recollection is vague; he would like to lay his hand on little known but trustworthy statistics, which strikingly bear out the contentions of his side; he would gladly unearth damaging admissions made by the Opposition when they were in power; or finally, he wants a few apt illustrations to strengthen and elucidate his arguments. In his political club library therefore a catalogue according to authors is of little or no use to him. He wants an index of subjects, and of subjects in minute detail. He does not want to be referred to So-and-so, who has written on the question; he must be pointed to the book, to the chapter, to the page where the question is discussed. This index should refer him not only to books, but to pamphlets, to magazine articles, even to newspapers, and it should continuously be kept up to date.

Now here it is obvious that we are approaching, if we have not reached, the impossible. A catalogue according to subjects is always difficult to compile, even in a small library. It has been successfully managed in America in the case of one or two large medical libraries. But where the library is large and the contents are various, I do not see how it is possible without the co-operation of a large staff of readers, who shall study every book in the library, keeping abreast of all its accessions, including pamphlets and periodicals, and shall methodically tabulate the results on a common system, based on the plan of the card-catalogue. This could be done, but the labour would be enormous, and the results hardly adequate; for hundreds and hundreds of subjects would be indexed to which no reference would ever be made. What in my judgment is practicable is this: the librarian should make a list of contemporary political questions; to begin with he might take the subjects dealt with in Mr. Sydney Buxton's admirable handbook, and he should enter under each heading what he knows the library to



contain, adding daily the results of his investigations in other quarters, where he hopes to find further information. He should be on the look out for other subjects that are likely to come up for discussion, so as to be ready in time; and this index should lie open in some conspicuous place in the library for the inspection of readers. I do not say that the work could be done quite satisfactorily. Amidst the ordinary routine of receiving and acknowledging books given to the library, of selecting, purchasing and settling for others, of cataloguing and arranging them, and of looking to the daily arrival of Parliamentary papers and other ephemeral literature, there would be some danger of its not being continually kept up to date, and so of losing its value. Still, if intelligently done it would be worth the doing, and it would be turning the librarian to better account than was usual in former times.

A hundred years or so ago he was commonly a mere custodian, whose business it was to keep the books dusted and in order, and to take good care that nobody touched them. His position was somewhat raised when he became a kind of reader's long arm, to get down the books that were asked for. Now he has been invested with functions that are altogether honourable, and he is expected to be a fount of information, not only on the fact of a book's being or not being in the library, but on the nature and value of its contents; and generally, to advise as to what should be read on any given subject. In a political club library the ideal librarian would be, not only all that he is expected to be elsewhere, but also cognisant of affairs abreast of political movements—something, in short, of an “old Parliamentary hand.”

To conclude, there are one or two points of practical interest and importance to which I will only refer. The “Gladstone Library” is the library of a political club; but members of a political club are after all human, and it would be hard if, because they have taken in hand the formation of a political and historical library on a magnificent scale, they should be less well provided than ordinary clubmen are with books that are attractive to what is called the “general reader.” There is room for improvement in this respect upstairs, although a good deal was done to remedy the deficiency by purchases made with Mr. Armitstead's donation. We ought, moreover, to increase fourfold our circulating library subscription, so that practically every new book of importance might at once be laid on the table.

Much smaller clubs than ours subscribe to the extent that I have indicated; and it is the presence of the new books that makes a library popular.

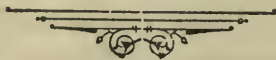
So far as I have been able to ascertain, it was the original intention of the founders of this club that the Gladstone Library should be of a semi-public character—certain restrictions as to hours and the like being of course understood. It has often been remarked to me that it would be of great advantage to Liberal political associations if their officers could, under certain conditions, be allowed access to it; and the same has more than once been urged with reference to the Women's Liberal Federation. Doubtless these points will be considered by the committee when the occasion arises.

It has been complained that the number of members who use the library is comparatively insignificant. There is less truth in this now than there was a few months ago; but there would be nothing remarkable in the circumstance if it were so. I recollect a pious monkish chronicler who, in recording the partial destruction of his monastery by lightning, dwells on the divine wisdom which directed the thunderbolt to fall on the library, which was empty, and not on the refectory; for in the latter case hardly one of the community would have escaped. A library used mainly for reference may be really of the utmost value, though readers do not remain long in it; while a students' library, in which books would be written, would hardly be looked for in connection with a political club.

Meanwhile, in their annual report, the committee congratulate the Club on the progress that has been made during the past year, which has indeed been very considerable, the number of volumes having increased from some 1,500 to upwards of 8,000. It is not necessary that so rapid a rate should be continued for the Gladstone Library to become very shortly a credit and an attraction to the Club, and an institution of real service to the Liberal party, and one not unworthy of the honoured name that it bears.

ARTHUR WOLLASTON HUTTON, M.A.,

*Librarian of the "Gladstone Library" at the National Liberal Club.*



## Christopher Plantin.

## IV.

IN 1567 the partnership of Plantin with the Bombergs, Becanus, and Schotti was dissolved, and for him alone was reserved the honour of executing the great work which has always been considered the chief glory of his press, the Royal or Polyglot Bible.

The conception of an edition of the Bible exhibiting several parallel versions was not originally due to Plantin, who had been preceded in it by several others, although none of them, excepting Cardinal Ximenes, had carried out the idea so fully as he himself was destined to do.

The great Venetian printer, Aldo Manuzio the elder, seems to have been the first to think of issuing an edition of this description. In a letter written by him in 1501, he says, "*Vetus et Novum Testamentum græce, latine et hebraice nondum impressi, sed parturio* ; and a specimen page of this projected, but never completed, work still exists in the Bibliothèque Nationale at Paris.\*

But though, from whatever cause, Manuzio abandoned the undertaking, we are indebted to another Italian, and to an Italian press for the earliest published polyglot volume of any portion of the Scriptures ; for, although as regards the actual printing, it was younger by about two years than the great work of Ximenes, yet it preceded that in publication.

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\* *A l'impression des livres grecs, latins et italiens, il vouloit joindre celle des livres hébraïques. Instruit dans les langues orientales, et notamment dans la langue sainte, il avoit déjà donné, dans sa Grammaire latine de 1501, son Introductio perbrevis ad hebraicam linguam, souvent réimprimée avec cette même Grammaire et avec celle de Lascaris. Ce premier essai n'étoit que le prélude d'une entreprise bien plus considérable et d'une haute importance pour ces temps-là. Il vouloit donner le texte de l'Ecriture sainte en trois langues, en hébreu, en grec et en latin, sur trois colonnes, de format grand in-folio. Dans une de ses lettres, écrite à Venise, Nonis Iulii, 1501, à Currado Celta et à Vincenzio Longino (la vingt-deuxième de la centurie de Melchior Goldast), on lit : Vetus et Novum Testamentum græce, latine et hebraice nondum impressi, sed parturio. En tête du Psautier grec, sans date, mais certainement imprimé de 1497 à 1498, I. Decadyius, dans sa préface à ses compatriotes, annonce que bientôt on verra réalisée la promesse d'Aldé, par la publication de la Bible en hébreu, grec et latin. De ce vaste projet, il n'a été exécuté qu'une feuille de modèle, présentant, sur une page de format in-folio, le texte dans les trois langues en trois colonnes. Cette page, dont on conserve dans le manu-*



This edition was printed at Genoa, in 1516 in quarto. [*Psalterium, Hebreum, Grecū, Arabicū, & Chaldeū, cū tribus latinis interpretatōibus & glossis.* (Colophon) *Impressit miro ingenio, Petrus Paulus Porrus, genuæ in ædibus Nicolai Iustiniani Pauli, præsidente reipub. genuensi pro Serenissimo FranoR. Rege, prestanti viro Octauiano Fulgoso, anno christiane salutis, millesimo quingentesimo sexto decimo mense, viiii bri.*], and must be considered rather as a tentative than complete work, containing as it does the Psalms only, to which its editor hoped at some future time to add the remainder of the Bible. It exhibits the Psalter in five languages, Hebrew, Greek, Arabic, Chaldee and Latin, there being no less than three translations in the last, viz., the Vulgate, and a literal rendering of both the Hebrew and Chaldee versions. The Arabic version was formerly supposed to present the first example of printing in that language, but this honour belongs properly to a book of prayers printed at Fano in 1514. This polyglot has a curious note to the 4th verse of the 19th Psalm, giving the earliest account of Columbus and his discovery of the New World.

We owe this interesting book to Agostino Giustiniano of Genoa, Bishop of Nebbio in Corsica, and at one time Regius Professor of Hebrew at the University of Paris. The son of Paolo Giustiniano and Bartholomea, his wife, he was born in 1470, and received the name of Pantaleone, that of Agostino being adopted by him afterwards on his becoming an ecclesiastic. He travelled much, spending three years of his early life at Valencia in Spain, and later on visiting France, Flanders and England, in which last he made the acquaintance of Erasmus, More, Linacre, and other learned men. He had long desired to visit Palestine, but his wish was destined never to be fulfilled, and he lost his life in a shipwreck, in 1536, whilst on his way from Genoa to Corsica. Besides his labours in the field of theology he wrote a history of his native city entitled, *Castigatis-*

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*scrit de la Bibliothèque nationale, No. 3064, déjà cité, un exemplaire, le seul peut-être échappé à la destruction, est d'une grande beauté, tant pour le caractère latin, le même que celui de Bembi Ætna, que pour le grec et l'hébreu; et il fait regretter vivement que le malheur des temps et les tracasseries qu'Alde annonce lui avoir été suscitées par des envieux, l'aient empêché de réaliser son projet, et d'ajouter à sa gloire celle d'avoir le premier donné une Bible polyglotte: il auroit devancé celle qu'on imprima à Complute en 1514-15-17, par les soins et aux frais du savant Cardinal Ximènes, qui dut peut-être à la feuille d'essai faite par Alde, la première idée de cette réunion de l'Ecriture sainte en plusieurs langues sur une même page.* Renouard, *Annales de l'Imprimerie des Aldes*, Paris, 1803, t. ii., p. 27, 28.

*simi Annali con la loro copiosa tavola della Eccelsa & Illustrissima Republi. di Genoa, da fideli & approuati Scrittori, per el Reuerēdo Monsignore Agostino Giustiniano Genoese Vescouo di Nebio accuratamente raccolti. Opera certamēte molto laudeuole, a Studiosi assai comoda, & comunemente a tutti vtilissima. Facēdo per la varietà delle opere chiaramente conoscere, quanto si debba da tutti riprouare el male, & costantemente procurare el bene della sua Republica. Genoa, M.D.XXXVII.* This original edition is now of rare occurrence (there is a copy in the British Museum), but the work has been reprinted at Genoa in 1834, and again in 1854. On Car. ccxxiii of the 1537 edition Giustiniano informs us that he had 2,000 copies of the polyglot Psalter printed on paper, and fifty copies on vellum. The British Museum possesses three examples of the former, and two of the latter, the vellum copy in the Grenville collection being a specially fine one.

In assigning to Giustiniano the honour of producing the first polyglot Psalter we must not forget that printed by Henri Estienne at Paris, in 1509; but neither this, nor the Jewish editions of the Pentateuch which appeared later (1546 and 1547) at Constantinople, can be regarded as polyglots in a strictly typographical sense; the five versions of the Paris Psalter being all printed in Roman type, whilst the Hebrew, Arabic and Persian of the earlier Pentateuch, and the Hebrew, Spanish and Greek of the latter, are all alike in Hebrew characters, instead of in those proper to the several languages.

But the first polyglot edition of the entire Scriptures and Plantin's real model for his own splendid work was that commonly known as the Complutensian. This magnificent Bible, printed at Alcalá (Complutum) in six folio volumes, of which the first is dated 1514, the last 1517, is due to the learning and munificence of Cardinal Ximenes who, though he lived to see the completion of it, died before it was actually given to the world at large, the difficulty of obtaining the Pope's approval of this novel mode of issuing the sacred writings having delayed its publication till 1522, five years after the great Cardinal's death.

Although surpassed by its successors, as was only natural, in point of accuracy and variety of versions, and also as regards typographical splendour, the Complutensian Polyglot must always have a special interest and value as being the first of those monuments of the industry and zeal for religious learning of the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries which we of the nineteenth, with all our boasted superiority in scholarship, criticism and wealth, have never yet attempted to rival or excel.



It does not come within the scope of this paper to give a detailed account of this or of the two great Polyglots which appeared later in France and England, but the subjoined table shows roughly the gradual increase of their contents from the four languages of the Spanish Cardinal to the nine of the English Bishop.

Alcalá, 1514-17	Hebrew	Greek	Latin	Chaldee					
Antwerp, 1569-72	Hebrew	Greek	Latin	Chaldee	Syriac				
Paris, 1628-45	Hebrew	Greek	Latin	Chaldee	Syriac	Arabic	Samaritan		
London, 1653-57	Hebrew	Greek	Latin	Chaldee	Syriac	Arabic	Samaritan	Ethiopic	Persian

In 1566 Plantin had already prepared a specimen of his projected Bible in four languages, Hebrew, Greek, Latin, and Chaldee, and entered into a correspondence with Qayas relative to the publication of the entire work under the King's auspices, having refused the patronage of the city of Frankfort and of the Elector Palatine which had been tendered to him conditionally on his printing the work at Frankfort or Heidelberg respectively. As a further inducement to Philip to grant his request he offered to add the Syriac version of the New Testament, and in 1567 succeeded in obtaining that monarch's promise of assistance and protection. In the following year he also gained a powerful and constant supporter in Cardinal Granvelle.

Having once lent a favourable ear to Plantin's petition, Philip seems to have done his best to promote the success of the undertaking, not only promising a money subsidy, but sending his own confessor to take the general superintendence of the work. This latter measure, indeed, constitutes our principal ground of gratitude to the King, for had it not been for Arias Montanus we should very probably never have seen the Antwerp Polyglot in its present completeness and magnificence. His vast learning and unwearied industry, his influence with Philip, and the unbroken harmony and friendship subsisting between himself and Plantin, all contributed to the success of the united labours of themselves and the various scholars and others working under them.

Benedictus Arias Montanus, one of the profoundest scholars Spain has ever produced, was born in 1527, at Frescenal de la Sierra, in Estremadura, and studied at the Universities of Seville and Alcalá, at which latter place, it will be remembered,



was printed the Ximenes Polyglot. He afterwards entered the Order of Santiago, the great patron saint of Spain, and in 1562 we find him attending the Council of Trent. Four years later he was appointed chaplain to the King, whose confidence he retained till his death, which preceded by two months only that of Philip himself. His departure for Antwerp was the beginning of a long period of toil, both mental and physical, for Arias. The vessel in which he sailed from Spain was wrecked off the Irish coast, and he was thus compelled to pass through England on his way to the Low Countries; then came the four years of constant labour for (as he himself tells us) eleven hours daily at the great Bible; these were succeeded by journeyings to and from Rome for obtaining the Pope's approval of the work and his own vindication from the charges of heresy from time to time brought against him. In 1576 he returned to Spain and devoted himself to the care of the Library in the Escorial; but in 1578 we find him sent by Philip to Lisbon, and it was not till 1590 that he was able finally to quit the royal service and retire to his beloved native place near Seville. He died on the 6th of July, 1598.

After his eventful voyage above mentioned, Arias reached Antwerp on the 18th of May, 1568, and the printing of the Bible began almost immediately afterwards—the first volume occupying from August of that year till the following March. The second volume was begun and finished in 1569, which also saw the commencement of the third volume; this and the fourth were completed, and the fifth volume was begun in 1570, the sixth volume, containing the Bible of the Dominican Sanctus Pagninus, of Lucca, having also been taken in hand in the former year. In 1571, the fifth and sixth volumes were ended, the fifth volume completing the actual Polyglot itself. The seventh and eighth volumes, comprising, with the sixth, the *Apparatus*, brought the whole of this vast undertaking to a close in 1572. In 1573 was issued a second edition of the *Apparatus*, of which the first volume (vol. vi. of the entire work) was similar to that already published, the other two being slightly altered. The types used in printing the Bible were principally obtained from Robert Granjon, the celebrated type-founder of Lyons—some of the Hebrew characters being supplied by Guillaume le Bé of Paris. The Chaldee and Syriac portions were executed with the Venetian types purchased of Bomberg in 1567. The paper was chiefly of French manufacture, whilst the material for the vellum copies came from Holland.

Plantin's original intention was merely to reproduce the contents of the Complutensian Polyglot, but this scheme expanded into one of considerably increased magnitude under the editorship of Arias. Thus the Antwerp Polyglot, besides comprising all that is contained in that of Ximenes, presents these most noteworthy additions: (1) In the Bible itself; the Chaldee Paraphrase for the whole of the Old Testament instead of for the Pentateuch only. This version was not unknown to Ximenes, though he had considered it too corrupt to be given entire, and Plantin's text was in fact obtained from the copy of the Paraphrase which had belonged to the Cardinal and been deposited by him in the public library at Alcalá. (2) The Syriac version of the New Testament, wholly wanting in the Complutensian edition, but here printed twice, viz., in Syriac and in Hebrew letters. This is almost the first example of any portion of the Scriptures in Syriac, its only predecessors being the two editions of the New Testament printed at Vienna in 1555 and 1562 respectively. (3) The printing of the Hebrew text with points. The *Apparatus* of Plantin's Polyglot is also much more extensive than that of the Complutensian, containing, amongst other additions, a Syriac Grammar and a Syro-Chaldaic Dictionary, together with the Epitome of the Hebrew Thesaurus of Pagninus. The Antwerp Polyglot also embodies the Old Testament portion of the Latin version by Pagninus, which was originally printed at Lyons in 1527, and is curious as affording the earliest instance of numbering the verses.

If to these various improvements we add the splendour of paper and vellum, the beauty of type and wealth of illustration which are all combined in these magnificent folios, we shall not hesitate to call it one of the most glorious books ever given to the world since that incomparable Bible which, at the very dawn of printing, more than a century before, had appeared in grand and perfect beauty beside the banks of Rhine.

We can well imagine the feelings of mingled joy and pride with which Arias and Plantin must have gazed on the stately volumes to which they had devoted so much of their best thought and labour, and which were to be their noblest memorial. And how incongruous seem the surroundings amid which their work was carried on! Not beneath the shadow of the Vatican in the central city of the Christian world, not in the solemn halls and dim chapels of the Escorial girt by the wild Guadarrama hills, not in one of those quaint old German towns where



the art of printing had its earliest homes, did the great Bible grow day by day beneath their hands; but in busy Antwerp, whose streets and wharves, crowded with commerce, seemed little in harmony with the more quiet and less obtrusive toil of scholar and divine.

What a contrast, too, between the political condition of the country and the peaceful nature of the work thus going on within it! During the four years occupied in printing the Antwerp Polyglot, the Netherlands were groaning beneath the iron rule of Alva; the scaffolds of Brussels were running red with blood; the sentence of death had gone forth upon hundreds and thousands of the best and bravest in the land; nay, the very elements seemed to have conspired with Philip and his ruthless followers to deal misery and death to his unhappy subjects. Yet, in the midst of all these fightings and tumults, this sorrow and suffering, was one more notable addition made to the number of copies of that Book which, in all ages and in all circumstances, has multiplied with ever increasing vitality and power. In sunshine and in storm, in prosperity and adversity, in time of peace and time of war, the Word of Life has lived; for, though its outward form may be of the perishable things of this world, it has an inward life which knows not wasting or decay.

It is, moreover, not without interest and profit to mark how, amid all the religious strife which raged so fiercely at this period, the second great Polyglot was the product of the united labour of priest and layman, Spaniard and Frenchman, the one of gentle, the other of more humble birth; both members of the Church of Rome, yet both tolerant of the opinions of the reformers, and both devoted to that volume which claims the love and reverence of all mankind alike. Of the four noble Polyglots of the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, that of Plantin, Montanus and their fellow-labourers has the distinguishing glory of having, in a time of such religious and political dissension, brought together in peace and harmony so many men of varying nationality and possibly varying creed.

On the completion of the Bible the approbation of the Doctors of Louvain and the Sorbonne seems to have been granted without difficulty, but that of the Supreme Pontiff was not to be so easily obtained. The chair of St. Peter was at this time occupied by Pius V., and numerous petty objections were made by him and his advisers to the bestowal of the



papal sanction, although it was asked not only by the printer of the work and by its chief editor, himself an ecclesiastic, but also by its great patron, His Most Catholic Majesty of Spain, the devoted son and servant of the Holy See. In April, 1572, Arias accordingly set out for Rome to present a copy of the Bible to Pius, and endeavour to set aside his prejudices. Before his arrival, however, in the Eternal City, the Pope died and was succeeded by Gregory XIII., who was more kindly disposed towards the work, and who appears to have not only given the desired approval without demur, but also to have granted Plantin the exclusive privilege of printing and selling the Bible in the papal dominions for a period of twenty years. Before the end of 1573 Plantin obtained a similar privilege applicable to the States of Venice, Germany, Castile, Aragon, Naples, France and the Netherlands.

But notwithstanding the approbation of the Pope, the patronage of Philip and the high character of Montanus and Plantin themselves, the Antwerp Polyglot was not destined to escape animosity and slander. The first to attack it was Leon de Castro, of the University of Salamanca, who fell foul of it on the ground of its being judaizing in tendency and detrimental to the authority of the Vulgate, and being tainted, moreover, with Arianism. So serious and persistent were the accusations of de Castro that Montanus found it necessary to make several visits to Rome to counteract their influence and gain the Pope's support against them. His efforts, however, were without any definite result, and the matter dragged on till 1580, when the Jesuit Juan de Mariana, being appointed arbiter of the dispute, gave judgment in favour, on the whole, of Arias. Another virulent critic was William Lindanus, Bishop of Ruremonde and Ghent successively, some of whose own books were printed at the Plantin press. He chiefly devoted himself to attacking the Psalms, and continued his onslaughts from time to time down to 1588, when they finally ceased, thus leaving Arias to spend the remaining ten years of his life without further molestation.

The total number of copies of the great Polyglot printed by Plantin was 1213 (rather more than double those of the Complutensian)—1200 being on paper and 13 on vellum. Those on vellum, however, comprised the first six volumes only, the seventh and eighth volumes being in all cases on paper; probably owing to the difficulty of obtaining a sufficient quantity

of vellum, or else to the great additional expense of that material—an expense which Plantin did not find it easy to meet himself and which Philip does not appear to have been willing to incur, although the entire impression on vellum was to be reserved for his sole disposal.

The 1200 paper copies were not all of exactly the same quality, but varied as below :—

960 copies were printed on *papier grand royal de Troyes*.

200 „ „ „ „ *fin royal au raisin de Lyon*.

30 „ „ „ „ *impérial à l'aigle*.

10 „ „ „ „ *grand impérial d'Italie*.

These last were intended for presents only.

Altogether the King received as his share 129 copies, including those on vellum. Of these last, one was presented to Emmanuel, Duke of Savoy, and after having been transferred to Paris at the time when so many treasures of literature and art were swept together from all parts of the Continent to enrich the royal collections there, was at length restored in 1815 to Turin. From a letter to the Duke from Arias Montanus accompanying this gift, it appears that certainly one copy—and probably two—were sent to Rome—one being intended for the Pope's own private library, and the other for that of the Vatican. Of the remaining copies on vellum, some still remain in Spain at the Escorial and elsewhere, whilst one of the most interesting and perfect is that now in the British Museum, and which was originally presented by Montanus to the celebrated Duke of Alva by the King's express command.

REGINALD S. FABER.

(To be continued.)



## The Great "She" Bible.—II.

### THE BC EDITION AND THE REPRINTS.

I HAVE now to describe the curious phenomenon discovered by the late Mr. Francis Fry about 1857,<sup>1</sup> which gives such a peculiar character to the BC edition. The large folios contain in the text 119 quires of three sheets; that is, 357 sheets or 1428 pages. It will be understood that the unit with which I deal in this paper is always a whole sheet of four pages, as this may be assumed to be homogeneous.

Out of the 357 sheets nearly two-thirds are for the most part identical in the several copies,<sup>2</sup> but about 128 sheets exist in two different forms in the various copies. Occasionally<sup>3</sup> the variations are very slight, but in nearly every instance they are numerous, affecting words, spelling, capitals, ornamental initials, &c.

Every copy of a BC Bible is made up of its own individual combination from these two sets of sheets. It is hard to find two exactly identical throughout, though a large group are very nearly so.

Francis Fry possessed a certain copy of this Bible which he calls No. 2, and this for reasons which he does not explain, he sets up as a standard of the "second issue." Every sheet among the duplicated sheets which does not appear in this copy he classes as a "reprint."

This "No. 2" may be seen in the Library of the British and Foreign Bible Society among the splendid Fry collection of Bibles, which they have just acquired, and which will no doubt henceforth cause that library to take a very leading position among Bible Libraries. It would appear that Mr. Fry must have found another copy closely agreeing with this "No. 2," since 3050 g2 in the British Museum was bought from him, and has exactly the same sheets as "No. 2." He gives a large table (No. 2), in which he presents the results of

<sup>1</sup> The preface to the 1833 Oxford reprint of the 1611 Bible speaks of the impossibility of finding two copies of the large black letter folio of "1613," "all the sheets of which corresponded precisely with each other."

<sup>2</sup> Some copies have a few sheets supplied from 1611 or 1617.

<sup>3</sup> See 11116 and ssss3.



his collation of forty-five copies of the BC Bible. It appears from this table, that out of the forty-five only *two* (15 and 30) have a text *approaching* his standard second issue (No. 2). These have each five "reprint" sheets, and the one that comes much the nearest after them is No. 17, which has twenty "reprints." Are we to suppose, then, that 3050 g2 is in reality No. 15 or No. 30, and has (like 3050 g3 and Mr. Sotheran's R45) had several sheets substituted, so as to make it agree with his idea of the "standard second issue"? It does not contain any statement to that effect—but we are cut off from the only other probable explanation, by finding in his book (p. 29) a reference to 3050 g2 as already in the British Museum—"3050 g2 is a correct copy of the second issue." It is evident then that it was not discovered by Fry *after* the publication of his book, and it is curious if, having possessed such a corroboration of his "standard," he did not insert it in the table. 3050 g2 has lost its first title, and contains one of Mr. Fry's facsimiles of the *engraved* 1611 title. May I slip in here a strong protest against Mr. Fry's habit of tampering with Bibles, altering sheets, and inserting skilfully imitated facsimile title pages?

In some cases, perhaps always, he inserts a paper with some indication of what he has done, but it would be far more interesting to have a book left in its original state, and the facsimile titles hold out a great temptation to unscrupulous owners or booksellers to suppress his record, and turn a *facsimile* into a *forgery*. Mr. Fry's proceedings could be understood on the part of any one who was a mere collector; but from a patient and laborious investigator like Mr. Fry, better things might have been expected.

In his book (*Description of the Great Bible, &c.*) he gives a test by which to distinguish *one* sheet in every quire, but as the quires are not always homogeneous, this is an incomplete guide. Moreover, his tests consist chiefly in the differences in chapter initials. To apply them, one has to turn to such a figure on such a plate, so that a collation by help of his table is tedious as well as incomplete. One can, of course, arrive at a complete knowledge of all the sheets which he called "reprints," by referring to his own "standard" copies in the Library of the Bible Society, and in the British Museum, also to two other copies in the Museum—3050 g3 and 1276 14. These he calls "second issue with reprints," and in the former Bible

is inserted a table signed by Fry, stating which sheets in each are "reprints."<sup>1</sup> One is thus able to arrive at a complete knowledge of *which* sheets he reckons as "reprints," and the information so gained is presented in the sixth column of my table.

On referring to Fry's table inserted in the two British Museum copies—both of which he classifies as "second issue with reprints"—one finds a curious phenomenon strongly suggestive of some false classification. Between them, as we have said, they contain nearly all the sheets he calls reprints, but in about twelve only of the duplicated sheets do they agree. Indeed, he recognises himself that the "reprints" fall into two great "sets," which do not for the most part occur in the same copies. It is a strange thing that he should have adhered through such long and full investigations to a standard of classification which proved to suit his copies so ill.

I wish to substitute for his a new and independent standard, which will correspond more accurately to the actual phenomena presented by the copies. In describing this new standard, I may perhaps most easily make my meaning clear by a concrete treatment. I will begin with my own copies. I have five BC Bibles, which are marked s4, s5, s26, s6 and s27 respectively. All five are what Fry would call "second issue with reprints." s4, s5 and s26 agree with one another almost exactly throughout the duplicated sheets. Among other copies which I have examined, I have found ten almost exactly identical with my three, and on analysing Fry's *Table 2*, I find that out of his forty-five copies seventeen are practically identical in text with my own three. The text presented by such a large consensus of copies has a far better claim to be considered as the standard second edition than Fry's isolated No. 2, and so I present it as such under col. B in my table. In most of the sheets there is practically unanimity among the B Bibles;

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<sup>1</sup> 3050 g3 once belonged to Fry, and is in fact a manufactured article. He states that *twelve leaves* have been changed by him, in order that (taken with 1276 l4) it may contain almost all the "reprints." Strange to say, he does not mention *which* are the sheets thus substituted. I have no doubt, however, that No. 14 in his "Table 2" represents 3053 g3 before it was altered, since it agrees with that Bible in every sheet *except six* (xxx 3, yyy 1, 2 and 3, ssss 3 and xxxx 2), and in all these sheets the latter Bible differs from 1276 l4, and has the "reprint" sheet. I commend this note to the attention of the authorities at the museum.



in only a very few was there any doubt which should be offered as the true B text.<sup>1</sup> In the footnotes to the table I give, I believe, all the instances in which my thirteen B Bibles, deviate from what I set down as the B text.

The British Museum has hitherto possessed no Bible of a purely B text, though 1276 14 comes nearest. It has eight B sheets, which are not of the B type. The copy already mentioned (page 10) as having been bought by the British Museum from Messrs. Bull and Auvache, and possessing a title page, has a more purely B text. It has only two deviations from the standard.

Whatever is not B I class as c. Very few Bibles are to be found with a purely c text. The purest c Bible that I know of is my own, s 27,<sup>2</sup> which has the c text always except in one doubtful, and two or three very rare, instances. Another newly-acquired British Museum book (3051 g11), also my own s6, and Fry's 5, 29<sup>3</sup> and 37, have a decidedly c text, though all less pure than my s 27. The rest of the Bibles reported by Fry or examined by myself have a mixed bc text, though one or other usually predominates. Fry's "standard second issue" is what I should call an unusually mixed copy, since it has about eighty-four c sheets and about forty B sheets.

I am inclined to suppose that the B Bibles were the ones first made up by the binder. I infer this from their homogeneity, and am confirmed in the idea by finding that the Bibles in which Fry found 1617 sheets are of a decidedly c type.

#### PRIORITY IN PRINTING.

Though in the first instance we are constrained to sort the duplicated sheets as B and c, in accordance with the manner in which we find them distributed in the copies, yet this division does not exhaust the subject. Even though we concede that the B sheets were *bound* first, it is another question, admitting of independent investigation, which was *printed* first. Fry's classification seems to assume that there must exist a *standard second issue*, first printed and first made up, and that whatever is not in

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<sup>1</sup> See 113 and LL2.

<sup>2</sup> Bought by me from Mr. J. R. Dore, the author of *Old Bibles*, 2nd edition, 1888.

<sup>3</sup> F5 and F29 are now in the collection of the British and Foreign Bible Society.



this copy may be assumed to be "reprint," which word I presume implies *later* printing than the standard.

This priority of text he seems to claim for his "No. 2." With much more reason might we expect to find it in our largely attested B text, but it may prove that (on account of a fire or for other unexplained reason) a large reprint took place before *any* copies were completed, and that then the prior and posterior sheets were so mixed that *no* copies were made up with all the sheets *prior*. And this proves on investigation to be the case. I have arrived, by a laborious process of collation, at a very definite opinion in the case of nearly all the sheets, as to which was first printed. This result is embodied in col. 7 in my table, which gives the sheet which I consider the later. This column contains in small space the fruit of much labour. It will be observed that in the majority of cases this result differs from that of Fry as presented in the sixth column. The manner in which I obtained these results is as follows. I had three copies open before me at a duplicated sheet; to my left an A Bible (first edition, 1611), to my right a pure C Bible, and in the middle a pure B Bible. I assume that A was printed first, and that the other two must have been printed either both independently from A, or "1" from A and "2" from "1." It is my business to ascertain which is "1" and which is "2."

I compare them line by line, noting every variation, however minute, under four heads. If B and C differ from A, but agree with one another, I class the variation under the head  $\alpha$ ; if B differs from A, and C agrees, I call it  $\beta$ ; if C differs and B agrees, I call it  $\gamma$ ; if all three Bibles differ I call it  $\delta$ . I record my results for each page that I examine separately, but do not collate through the whole four pages of a sheet, if I get a decisive result sooner. If  $\alpha$  is small I reckon that page as indecisive; apparently in such case B and C were composed independently from A. Suppose B is small, and  $\alpha$  and  $\gamma$  are both *double* of  $\beta$ , then I consider it plain that B was printed from A and C from B. Conversely one may find  $\alpha$  and  $\beta$  double of  $\gamma$ , in which case C must reckon as prior, B as posterior. Very often one page in a sheet gives an ambiguous answer, and another page a decided one.<sup>1</sup> Hardly ever do two pages in the same sheet give a decided but

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<sup>1</sup> It would appear as though in putting up a *posterior* sheet the work was frequently divided between two compositors, one of whom worked from an A Bible, the other from the *prior* sheet.

contradictory result. This circumstance gives one great confidence in the method. Where a letter appears in the seventh column without a note of interrogation it is to be understood that the method has given an unambiguous account which I offer with great confidence in its correctness. Where the letter is followed by ? the indications are in favour of the view suggested, but the numerical test does not come up to the standard. Where no letter occurs the results are quite ambiguous.

I was anxious to supplement this statistical test by another of a different kind, which I hoped might clear up the few sheets which the former leaves doubtful. On this I have spent considerable labour with very meagre result. I thought it probable that some of the ornamental initials might appear in the *posterior* sheets only. I therefore made an examination of all the initials throughout the duplicated sheets, taking note of every occurrence of each, till I had found it both in a *prior* and also in a *posterior* sheet (as previously determined by collation). I then looked all through the A Bible, noting off on my lists every initial that occurred throughout. I also looked right through the BC Bible for any initials which occurred in A, and not in the duplicated sheets, but in the neutral part of the BC Bible. The result was that I found eight initials in A not in BC, thirty-nine in BC not in A,<sup>1</sup> sixteen in *posterior* sheets of BC, but not in *prior* sheets, nor yet in A; six in *prior* sheets of BC not in posterior sheets nor yet in A. I also looked through the whole neutral part of BC to find any of the sixteen initials peculiar to posterior sheets. I found only two of them in three sheets, which from their position are likely enough to be really posterior (the prior sheets being lost). These initials were the A in Judges iv. and Ezekiel xvi., and the W in Job xxiv. I presume that the fourteen initials which are left over, and which do not occur anywhere in A, B, or C, except in posterior (or doubtful) sheets, were most of them letters acquired by the printer after the prior sheets were printed. The initials in question are (1) C in Job xli. (c); (2) I in 2 Kings xii. (B), also Isaiah xxvii. (c); (3) L in Psalm xc. (c); (4) N in Neh. vii. (c) and Neh. ix. (B); (5) N in Neh. x. (c); (6) O in Psa. lxxiii. (B); (7) P in Psa. cvi. (c); (8) P in Psa. cxlviii. (c); (9) S in 1 Chron. xvi. (c); (10) S in Job xxviii. (c); (11) T in 2 Kings vii. (c); (12) T in Isa. xxi. (c); (13) W in Isa. lxiii.

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<sup>1</sup> This result has been mentioned above, pp. 6 and 7, in proof of the priority of A to BC.

(c); (14) Z in Jer. lii. (c). Only two of the above occur in sheets which the statistical method has left doubtful. The I occurs in Psalm xxvi. (B), and the L in Job xiii (c), thereby confirming the doubtful result derived from the statistical method. The sheets in question are zz 3 and ccc 3. The fact of this confirmation will be found pointed out in the footnotes to the table.

*The Vicarage, Corton, Lowestoft.*

WALTER E. SMITH.

*(To be continued.)*





Public Libraries and Technical Education.<sup>1</sup>

THIS important question has for some time past received considerable attention, and has slowly but surely been making its way to the front. People require a great deal of convincing, and reforms always move slowly; but if we are satisfied that though the progress be slow it is steady and certain, we may find courage in the hope that the desired object will eventually be gained. We may be sure that fundamental changes in our system of education will only be of slow growth.

At no time in the history of the country has science and art, commerce, manufactures, mining and shipping advanced with such great and rapid strides. Recent discoveries in science have eclipsed all previous ones. And it is undeniable that those to whom we are indebted for most of the important discoveries and inventions during the last half century are men who have risen from the ranks; and to these men of humble origin are due, in a great measure, the advancement, the power and prosperity of the nation. If this is so—and I do not think it will be gainsaid—it is of the highest importance that every inducement and facility for study and improvement should be offered to our hardy sons of toil, in order that their talents may be directed into the proper channels and put to the best possible use.

Technical instruction has now become a national question, and if England is to hold her own as the pioneer of progress, it must be included in the educational curriculum of our schools and colleges, and the aid of our free libraries and museums must be invoked.

We are behind our continental rivals in promoting a system of technical instruction, as the report of the Royal Commission on that subject in 1884 abundantly proves:—

“In whatever degree the technical instruction of our continental rivals may have trained them for competition with ourselves, in their own, in neutral, and to some extent in our home markets, much of their success is due to *more painstaking, more pliancy, and greater thrift*; and also to *the general cultivation, the knowledge of modern languages, and of economic geography* usually possessed by continental manufacturers.

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<sup>1</sup> Read at the Annual Meeting of the Library Association, October, 1889.

"Your commissioners cannot repeat too often that they have been impressed with the general intelligence and technical knowledge of the masters and managers of industrial establishments on the Continent. They have found that these persons, as a rule, possess a sound knowledge of the sciences upon which their industry depends. They are familiar with every new scientific discovery of importance, and appreciate its applicability to their special industry. They adopt not only the inventions and improvements made in their own country, *but also those of the world at large*, thanks to their knowledge of foreign languages, and of the condition of manufactures prevalent elsewhere.

"The creation of technical schools for boys intending to become foremen is of much more recent date than that of the polytechnic schools.

"Up to the present time, although a few foremen have received some theoretical instruction in schools of this kind, foreign foremen have not generally been instructed, but, as in England, are men who, by dint of steadiness, intelligence, and aptitude for command and organisation, have raised themselves from the position of ordinary workmen.

"For the technical education of workmen, outside the workshop, the resources of Continental countries have hitherto been, and are still, very much more limited than has been supposed in this country to be the case.

"In two very important respects, however, the education of a certain proportion of persons employed in industry abroad is superior to that of English workmen : first, as regards the *systematic instruction* in drawing given to adult artisans, more especially in France, Belgium and Italy ; and secondly, as to *the general diffusion of elementary education* in Switzerland and Germany. In some parts of these latter countries great attention is paid to drawing in elementary schools. There are also in all large towns in France, and to a more limited extent in other countries, numerous evening 'conferences' and 'cours' on almost every subject of interest in art, science and literature, which workmen have the opportunity of attending, as they are entirely gratuitous."

The "National Association for the Promotion of Technical Education" has helped forward the cause very considerably, and in March of last year Sir Henry Roscoe introduced into Parliament a Technical Education Bill embodying the views of the Association just named, at the request of the Executive Committee.

In this Bill, authority was given to School Boards to provide for technical education in schools under their management, and power was conferred on the local authority to make such provision if it should be neglected or insufficient. Besides the subjects which the Science and Art Department prescribes for examination, the word "technical" in this Bill included the use of tools, commercial subjects, modern languages, free-hand and machine drawing, and any other subject prescribed



by the Education and Science and Art Departments *jointly*. This Bill was not passed, as the Government intended to introduce a Bill of their own.

In May of the same year the Government introduced their Technical Instruction Bill, which differed in several important points from Sir Henry Roscoe's Bill. This Bill placed the control of secondary technical instruction in the hands of the "Authority empowered to carry out the Public Libraries Acts;" elementary technical education being placed in the hands of the School Boards, where such exist. One new condition introduced was the limitation of the rates raised by the School Board and by the local authority to one penny in the pound in each case. Such a restriction would tend to retard in many places much of the good which might result from the measure. We have had evidence of this time after time in the case of many of the smaller libraries, where the penny rate is insufficient to carry on the work successfully.

The National Association lost no time in proposing "that Clause 1 ought to be amended so as to give School Boards in England powers equivalent to those already possessed by them in Scotland with respect to technical education, and that the connection of the measure with the Libraries Acts, and the popular vote thereby entailed was undesirable and should be removed."

We have already seen in a number of instances how the popular vote has hindered the public library movement. When it is a case of £ s. d., it is pitiful to see how the British taxpayer is influenced in his decision by the amount he will have to contribute in rates, the ultimate good resulting from the movement being scarcely considered. This has occurred over and over again as regards the popular vote and the adoption of the Public Libraries Acts. The important borough of Hull has gained notoriety by rejecting the Acts on two occasions, and if technical education had to depend likewise on the popular vote, it would, in a number of places, share the same fate as the libraries.

However, a change for the better was manifested in the Government's Technical Instruction Bill introduced by Sir W. Hart Dyke, and which was passed just at the eleventh hour of the last session. This bill, as amended, removes the principal bone of contention which existed between the partisans of voluntary schools and the Board schools, by investing the "local authority"—a body which represents all parties—with the power of supporting out of the rates technical or manual instruc-



tion. The objectionable clause by which a poll could be demanded has been omitted, but the clause restricting the amount of the rate to be raised in any one year to *one penny* in the pound has been retained.

The Technical Instruction Act is not all that could be desired, but half a loaf is better than no bread, and now that the Government has recognised in a legislative manner the necessity of a scheme for technical instruction, we may expect, if advantage is taken of the present measure, that other concessions will follow.

Three other Bills having reference to technical instruction were prepared and ordered by the House of Commons to be printed during last session, but none of these were passed.

The public library can be made subservient to, and help in a great measure indirectly, the cause of technical instruction. We all know how desirable it is to have on our library shelves copies of all the most important and useful books on the staple industries of the district in which the library is placed, and a reference to the number of times such works are issued will prove how greatly they are used. In St. Helens the principal industries are in glass, chemicals, and metals; mining is also carried on largely. It is our aim, therefore, to procure all the best books we can get which treat on those branches of industry. Librarians might co-operate with teachers of science and art classes, and with masters, managers, and foremen of works with a view to obtaining for the library the best and most serviceable books on scientific subjects, of which in many cases they have a personal knowledge.

At the Liverpool meeting of the Association a capital paper was read on "Technical Literature in Free Public Libraries," by Mr. John Southward, in which he advocated that public libraries should pay more attention to books on technical subjects.

Too much importance cannot be attached to the desirability of having in our free libraries a good supply of books in all the higher branches of literature; but we ought not to overlook the fact that in St. Helens and similar manufacturing centres, where a large proportion of the persons who use the library belongs to the working class, and where some of the occupations followed are of a routine kind, not necessarily requiring much skill, it may be expected that the demand for light reading will be large.

It is very gratifying to see decorators, designers, and others visiting our reference departments and looking over fine art works in order to get new ideas to help them in their work. I am always pleased to see such making use of the library, and if a new work on decoration or ornamental art is added to the library they are delighted to be informed, and lose no time in looking over it.

The leading technical periodicals and trade journals are of the greatest importance to the skilled workman, containing as they do nearly all the new discoveries and inventions, in addition to useful hints and suggestions so helpful to those for whom they are intended.

There can be no doubt that an educational museum would be a valuable adjunct to a well-managed public library. Objective teaching is always more effective and instructive than the mere recital of any facts; and when the student can see for himself the actual objects of his study, he will learn more quickly and his mind will be more permanently impressed. An educational museum should, at least, represent all the industries of the district in which it is situated. Courses of lectures should be given similar to those in connection with the Liverpool Public Library, which are very largely attended, and appear to be greatly appreciated.

Lectures stimulate and encourage thought, but they are not so effective as classes; which should always be organised in connection with the library where possible. Wolverhampton has been notably successful in this direction.

If the public library is to be connected with technical education it must be so in a secondary sense. Our existing schools ought, as at present, to take the first step. Technical education, like any other form of instruction, must rest on a good and solid foundation. What is wanted in our elementary schools is that the instruction given may be made a little more practical and of the kind in which, as Lord Derby remarked the other day at Preston, "the hand has a share as well as the head." He added, "If we want to be believed we must keep to what is probable, and speaking as an outsider in this matter, he should say that the strongest argument, to his mind, in favour of technical training was this—that every nation which is our rival in productive arts has gone in for it zealously. . . . Early lessons in drawing, he knew, were often remembered with pleasure, so was the learning to speak and write a new language,



but nobody, as far as he knew, had connected pleasing associations with the memory of the Latin grammar."

Sir John Lubbock, in an address on manual instruction, made the following remarks on the deficiencies of English schools: "In our infant schools we have generally object lessons, or some more or less imperfect substitute of that kind, for the very young children. But after this, with some rare exceptions, our teaching is all book learning; the boy has no hand work whatever. He sits some hours at a desk, his muscles have insufficient exercise, he loses the love and habit of work. Hence, to some extent, our school system really tends to unfit boys for the occupations of after life, instead of training the hand and the eye to work together; it tends to tear his associations from all industrial occupations, which, on the other hand, subsequently revenge themselves, when their time comes, by finally distracting the man from all the associations and interests of school life. The principle of manual instruction has been elaborately worked out in Sweden, where it is known as the "Slöjd system; and has been already adopted in over six hundred schools."

The importance of drawing forming a part of the instruction given in our schools may be gathered from an interesting incident recorded by W. S. Caine, M.P., in his *Trip Round the World*. During a visit to a Japanese school he paid particular attention to one of the classes numbering sixty boys. The master wrote on a large blackboard a sentence for the boys to copy. Then each boy, with Indian ink and paint brush (the universal Japanese pen), carefully copied the sentence from the blackboard. Mr. Caine went round the class to see the copies and at last understood how it was that the Japanese are the finest draughtsmen in the world. Not very long ago Nottingham depended largely on France for designs in lace manufacture, but now—thanks to the local school of art—the manufacturers no longer send to the Continent for patterns, as a number of designers are being trained on the spot, and these are now supplying designs which will compare very favourably with anything that France can produce.

The public library offers many advantages to the youth just leaving school. It then becomes a real help to him, as he is enabled to continue his studies in the various branches of science and art by drawing from the stores of knowledge on the Library bookshelves.

The Warrington School of Art, which is connected with the



library and museum, has done an important work, during a long period, in supplementing the education given in the elementary schools. If we could have more of these art schools carried on in connection with our libraries and museums a great amount of good would result from them. A yearly loan exhibition of pictures and other objects of art, including the work done by students during the year, might be held, and prizes could be competed for. In some libraries, Bootle, Cardiff, Wolverhampton, and others, classes in connection with the South Kensington Science and Art Department are held, and under certain conditions will make a grant towards the building or purchase fund. The grant may be made at a rate not exceeding 2s. 6d. per square foot of internal area up to a maximum of £500 on a school of science or on a school of art. Loans of objects of science and of art are also made from the South Kensington Museum to permanent museums at schools of science and art, and to museums established under the Public Libraries Acts, or under municipal authority.

By a slight addition to the subjects which the Science and Art Department prescribes for examination, the provision for secondary technical instruction would be practically met, and the existing arrangements for carrying on science and art classes in connection with a library or museum would fully answer the purpose. Of course, it goes without saying that some districts, on account of the peculiarity of its trades, would require special consideration as regards the technical subjects for examination.

A number of important communities have already given considerable attention to the question of technical instruction, among which may be named Liverpool, Manchester, Nottingham, Leeds, Birmingham, Bolton, Southampton, Dundee, Warrington, Bradford, and Newcastle-upon-Tyne, and in some of these places large sums of money have been subscribed towards the erection of suitable buildings and the purchase of necessary apparatus for the purposes named.

In a very able article which appeared in *The Art Journal* for February last (1889) entitled "The Development of Modern Industrial Art in Germany," the writer, Mr. A. Harris, says:

"In the exhibition at Munich it was impossible for a skilled observer to avoid noticing the important effect which is produced by various diverse influences upon works of industrial art. Among these I may name as the most important: royal patronage; state and municipal support to education; æsthetic societies (*Kunst Gewerbe Vereine*); and the open acknowledgment of individual talent, whether in the designer or the workman. . . . .

"The *Kunst Gewerbe Vereine* exert a great influence, and generally in a good direction. They are very numerous, and appear now to exist in every centre of importance where art industry is carried on. They are composed of artists, workers, and traders, and whilst their functions and operations vary in different places, they exercise a vast influence upon the furtherance of artistic industry, by the propagation of a spirit of zeal and emulation among the various towns and provinces, as well as by furthering the national and imperial interests of German trade as against the world. From the spirit of the speeches and writings of their members, it is quite clear that they conceive themselves to hold a "mission" for the furtherance of national art and industry and in their separate or combined capacity they are able to exert a powerful influence upon governmental and corporate bodies, as well as upon the artists, designers, and workmen of the empire.

"The number of these industrial art societies (including those for architecture), as recorded in the *Kunst Handbuch* for Germany, is over sixty, with nearly 40,000 members; but besides these there are many hundreds of local societies in connection with central unions, forming in some provinces of the empire a complete network over the country. The fees for membership vary from three marks—three shillings—yearly in some places, to over twenty marks in others. It is clear, therefore, that they are within reach of handicraftsmen and artisans.

"The work of these societies extends to the establishment of periodical or permanent exhibitions and sample museums; the promotion of pageants and artistic performances, besides the general encouragement of industrial art, the guidance of educational movements, the elevation of national and individual taste, and the diffusion of literature bearing upon the subject."

If we could have these industrial art societies established in connection with our libraries, museums, and art galleries, they would be the means of stimulating and encouraging local talent, by bringing into full operation the abilities and acquirements of our artists, skilled workmen, and mechanics.

ALFRED LANCASTER,  
*Librarian, Free Public Library, St. Helens.*





## THE LIBRARY CHRONICLE.

### Practical Librarianship.

THE modern librarian is wholly modern. The distance that separates him from the aforesaid "Keeper of the Books" is immeasurable. A vast stride was made in the ideal of a librarian's duty when, a short generation ago, it was thought needful that he should at least so order his library as to make its use easy and pleasant—nay, more—that he should hold himself in readiness to give his utmost help to the seeker after knowledge.

But even those were days of "small things" as compared with these. The newest ideal of the librarian's work is that he shall strive to increase it; that he shall not wait for readers, but rather go in search of them. He must go out into the highways and by-ways and compel them to come in.

This is no rhapsody, but fact. We have before us three circulars issued respectively by Mr. Pink, of Cambridge, Mr. May, of Birkenhead, and Mr. Ogle, of Bootle. Differing in form, their object is the same—to explain to the public what the library is, what it can do for them, and *begging* them to avail themselves of its privileges. These have been distributed in thousands—sometimes by post, sometimes by hand. We should like to print one of them as a model, but it is needless, for each of the gentlemen named will most gladly forward sample copies of their circular to any one asking for them.

The Bootle Library has joined hands with the promoters of the Cambridge Systematic Home Reading Scheme, keeps a supply of their syllabuses, and the Committee *undertakes to obtain for the library the books necessary for the courses of reading*. This is the true "practical librarianship"!

### Record of Bibliography and Library Literature.

Gli Incunaboli della R. Biblioteca Universitaria di Bologna. Catalogo di Andrea Caronti, compiuto e pubblicato da Alberto Bacchi della Lega e Ludovico Frati. *Zanichelli*: Bologna, 1889. 8vo. pp. xvi. 518.

This is not in itself a very interesting catalogue. The books are excellently described, with due attention to all the minutiae which bibliographers expect; but among the 880 works here catalogued only a very few appear to be of any great rarity, and the form in which the catalogue is cast renders it difficult to discover which these are. With very few exceptions, the interest in fifteenth-century books is mainly typographical, and though the alphabetical arrangement of *Hain* increases its handiness as a work of reference, for a small collection there can be little doubt that a classification under places and printers is much more useful than one which follows the names of authors. With copious indexes, the difference between the two plans is reduced to a minimum, but the present work is unprovided with an index of any kind, and we can thus only note that among other precious volumes which it enumerates are some early editions of the great Italian writers—Dante, Petrarch, and Boccaccio—a few stray foreigners, like the *Stultifera Navis* of Sebastian Brandt, and the 1462



Bible of Fust and Schœffer. We must, however, call our readers' attention to the really admirable preface contributed to the volume by Signor Olindo Guerrini. This is remarkable alike for grace of style and for its interesting account of the history of the University Library, of which we shall venture to give a short *résumé*. Its real founder was Ulisse Aldrovandi, the naturalist, but a century later (in 1712) a certain Count Luigi Ferdinandi Marsili made a gift of books and manuscripts which, whether for its importance or for a certain mystery which attended it, so overshadowed the original bequest of Aldrovandi that the Count is always regarded as the founder of the collection. His own history was a remarkable one. In his youth he had fought against the Turks, had been taken prisoner, and made his escape after great hardships. Entering the Imperial Army, he rose to a high command in it, till for some secret reason he was suddenly cashiered with every mark of infamy, and ended his days as the commander of the scanty and wretched troops of the Pope. When he came forward with his offer of books and manuscripts all the world wondered whence he had obtained them, and the answer, with such differences as must be made between the methods of a soldier and an ecclesiastic, reads like an Italian transcript of the eighth chapter of the *Philobiblon* of Richard de Bury. Whoever wanted to propitiate the Count presented him with a book. When a town was sacked its library was his share of the spoil, and the soldiers brought him the volumes they found in private houses as the surest means of winning his favour. No wonder a library so formed outstripped in popular interest the humbler collection of a mere naturalist, and when the donor with a modesty, as Signor Guerrini unkindly remarks, *troppo cappucinesca*, too monastic, to be sincere, refused to allow the library to be called by his name, his present popularity and future fame were alike ensured.

The library thus formed at an early period in its career was handed over to the University, but it did not flourish. The rulers of Bologna had "more than a repugnance, a positive horror and detestation of books and libraries," and its destinies were entirely in the hands of the Cardinal Archbishop. The Index of prohibited books was kept ever open, and no volume there mentioned was allowed to remain on the shelves. The poor allowance of two or three hundred scudi for annual purchases was expended mainly in volumes of canon law, and when some volume of wider interest was ordered from abroad, it had to run the gauntlet of the custom houses of all the neighbouring states, and arrived, if at all, disfigured by the stamps of their licensers.

At the time of the French Revolution public interest in the library revived, but only to decline once more on the restoration of the Pope, and the institution fared in no wise better when the city passed into the hands of the Austrians. It was in the depressing times which succeeded this misfortune that the library was committed to the charge of a true scholar, Andrea Caronti, to whom his successors have honourably sur-rendered the credit due for the compilation of this catalogue. To the work accomplished by this enthusiastic librarian we subjoin Signor Guerrini's sympathetic tribute, freely rendered from the Italian:—

"In the winter, amid the arctic cold of that immense room, in the summer amid suffocating heat, alone, without even a copyist to help him, working far into the night and returning to his toil with the return of day, Caronti rewrote the whole of the Alphabetical Catalogue, the Inventory [? Shelf-Catalogue] and a great part of the Subject-Index—an undertaking that might have frightened a whole staff of workers, involving the individual examination of nearly 200,000 volumes, the writing of one or two, or more slips for each, and the registration of each work in the Inventory. All this he did, not with the haste of a copyist, paid by so much a title, but with the deliberation and diligence of a

bibliographer, explaining anonyms and pseudonyms, marking imperfections, ransacking important transactions and periodicals, and noting and illustrating rarities. Any one who has had experience of such labours will wonder that one man could do so much, unaided ; our wonder is that Caronti, half a century, we may say, ago, should have begun his catalogue on the principles and lines which are in vogue to-day, and which are now reckoned as new discoveries. Panizzi understood the value of this man, and wanted him for the British Museum ; but Caronti loved our library and his work there, and refusing these honourable and advantageous proposals remained at his post to finish the catalogue."

Every walk of life, it is said, produces its heroes, and among the heroes of librarianship a place must surely be found for Andrea Caronti.

Zur deutschen Dante-Litteratur mit besonderer Berücksichtigung der Uebersetzungen von Dante's Göttlicher Komödie. Mit mehreren bibliographischen und statistischen Beilagen. Von Bar. G. Locella. *Trubner : Leipzig*, 1889. 8vo. pp. iv. 108.

This work is a painstaking account of Dante literature in Germany, where Baron Locella computes that 60,000 copies of home-made editions of his chief work have been distributed, while no less than forty-four different translators have endeavoured to interpret it to readers ignorant of Italian. About seventeen of these appear to have rendered the whole of the *Divina Commedia*. Of complete cantos the second of the *Inferno* has attracted most translators (thirty-one), while the incident of Paolo and Francesca has enticed no less than thirty-six scholars to attempt some portion of Canto V. Turning to statistics of another kind, we note that while only eleven Dante books are recorded as having been published in Germany up to 1665, and these were followed by a complete cessation of Dante literature for seventy-four years, from 1788 onwards no year has passed by without the appearance of some German translation or commentary. In 1865, the sexcentenary of the poet's birth, the total of these publications was no less than fifty-one ; in 1888 it was seventeen, which appears to be about the present average. Amid his notices of the different Dante scholars of Germany, Baron Locella assigns a prominent place to "Philalethes" (King John of Saxony) from whose Italian commentary on the *Inferno* he quotes the whole of the Twenty-seventh Canto. He also gives a full account of the Dante album in the Royal Library at Dresden.

## Library Notes and News.

*The Editor earnestly requests that librarians and others will send to him early and accurate information as to all local Library doings. The briefest record of facts and dates is all that is required, and all contributions used will be paid for.*

*In course of time the "Library Notes and News" will become of the utmost value to the historian of the Free Library movement, and it is therefore of the highest importance that every paragraph should be vouched for by local knowledge.*

ABERDEEN.—Mr. Yeats, of Aquharney, has given a donation of £100 to the building fund of the new library. It is expected that operations will be commenced with the erection of the library buildings at Rosemount Viaduct early in March.

ALVERSTOKE, HAMPSHIRE.—The Public Libraries Acts were adopted



here four years ago, but the Local Board has not yet been able to put them into force. They have, however, just leased a piece of land and have purchased a wooden building, for temporary use as a public library. The annual income is £150.

ASCOT, BERKSHIRE.—On February 6th, a library and reading room were opened by W. S. Caine, M.P. The building, furniture and books are the gift of Miss Durning-Smith, and the institution is to be called the "Durning Library." Nearly 3,000 volumes have been provided, with accommodation for sixty persons in the reading rooms. Mr. H. Bradshaw is librarian.

BARNSELY, YORKSHIRE.—The Public Libraries Acts were unanimously adopted at a public meeting on January 17th, and the Corporation are enabled thereby to take possession of the public hall, offices and other property, valued at £12,000, given by Mr. Charles Harvey. The members of the Mechanics' Institute have since resolved to hand over their library to the new public library.

BELFAST.—The Earl of Zetland, Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, visited the Belfast Free Library on January 17th. The first year's working of this Institution is eminently encouraging.

BINGLEY: YORKSHIRE.—On February 8th a ratepayers' meeting was held in the Mechanics' Institute, Bingley, to determine whether the Public Libraries Acts should be adopted for the district. The chairman alluded to the generous offer of £1000, by Mr. Alfred Sharp, on the condition that the town would take over the Mechanics' Institute and adopt the Public Libraries Acts. A resolution in favour of adopting the Acts was carried unanimously. It is intended to take over the Institute at a rental of £125 per annum, which sum is to form an endowment for the Technical School. The building will provide for a public library and reading room, for which purpose the present library consisting of 1,700 volumes will be acquired.

BIRMINGHAM.—The report of the Birmingham (Proprietary) Library shows an increase of seventy-one members. Number of volumes added, 1,110. A renewed appeal is made for funds to extinguish the debt caused by the extension of the premises.

BLACKBURN.—Mr. R. Ashton, late assistant librarian, has been appointed chief of the Blackburn Free Library and Museum.

BOOTLE.—A students' room has just been opened. Special rules have been drawn up for its management. The Systematic Home Reading Scheme just inaugurated is meeting with a fair amount of success. Five thousand circulars of information (8vo, 8pp.) have been circulated in the town, chiefly from house to house, with good results.

BRECHIN.—There has been an unaccountable delay on the part of the Brechin people in deciding whether they will accept the £5,000 offered by an anonymous donor towards the establishment of a public library. The latest news is that on February 4th a meeting of householders decided that they would take a poll of the ratepayers on the subject.

BRENTFORD.—The new public library was opened on January 16th by Mr. James Bigwood, M.P. It is situated at Clifden House, a spacious old mansion in the most populous part of the town.

CAMBRIDGE.—The Hancock wing of the University Library is now finished, so far as the building is concerned, and it is certainly an architectural ornament to the University. The cost, exclusive of fittings, amounts to some £15,000, of which about £10,500 was bequeathed by S. G. Hancock, fellow of St. John's College, and £400 represents the



Vice-Chancellor's stipend, generously handed over for the purpose by Dr. Taylor, Master of the same College. The financial Board appropriately propose to devote certain profits of the University Press to cover the balance. On the recommendation of the Syndics of the Press, gifts of books printed at the University Press have been granted to the Library of the Birkbeck Institute, the Public Libraries, Chelsea, the Free Library, Ealing, the Lincoln School of Science and Art, the Free Library, Norwich, the Free Public Library, Paddington, the Public Library, St. Albans, and the Free Library, Great Yarmouth.

CHELSEA.—On February 8th the Countess Cadogan, accompanied by Earl Cadogan, laid the foundation stone of the Central Public Library, Manresa Road, Chelsea. The total cost of the building will be about £10,000, the freehold site being the gift of Earl Cadogan, who has also manifested his interest in the library by a further gift of £350 for technical literature.

CHESTERFIELD.—The Town Council have decided—"That non-residents of the borough be allowed to use the Free library on terms to be hereafter arranged, subject to a guarantee being given by a burgess, as in the case of a resident of the borough." The resolution was passed by eight votes to five, although the Town Clerk declared that the proposal was illegal.

CRIEFF.—In terms of the scheme under the Endowed Schools Commission, the governors of Taylor's Institution at Crieff have taken premises for the purpose of forming a library. Meantime, with the exception of a few bursaries, the proceeds of the Trust will be expended in connection with the Free Library at Crieff.

EDINBURGH.—At a meeting of the members of the Edinburgh Mechanics' Library on 27th January, some discussion took place on a proposal to close the library. It was, however, decided to continue.

GLASGOW.—The *Glasgow Evening News* has propounded a magnificent "plan for a combined free library, art gallery, museum, and lecture or exhibition room, on a site in George Square; based on the adoption of the Public Libraries Acts, the exhibition surplus, Lord Provost Muir's £20,000, and a public subscription." The scheme has excited much public interest, and many columns of the newspaper are occupied by the opinions of leading local men. The following letter from Mr. F. T. Barrett, librarian of the Mitchell Library, may be quoted:—

"It would, I think, be in every way a matter for congratulation if the present movement for the provision of more adequate art galleries should be made the occasion of adopting the Public Libraries Acts, thus putting the city on an equality with its peers in the matter of literature as well as in relation to art and science.

"In respect to the question of site, convenience of access is of the first importance. In Birmingham, where the Art Gallery is close to the Town Hall, the Council House, the Free Library, and other important buildings, the attendance of the public, local as well as visitors, is large and constant. In George Square Glasgow possesses an almost ideal site for such an institution as you describe.

"While feeling the greatest interest in art galleries and museums, and with a very strong sense of their value, I do not think myself entitled to enter into any question in regard to them; but on the library side of your scheme I would offer a few remarks. In the first place, I would urge you, in maturing your proposals, to develop largely the idea of branch or district libraries, which at present is only cursorily mentioned in your third paragraph. While I have the highest sense of the value

in any great city of a large library of reference, such as the Mitchell Library has become, I regard as in some senses more important, more influential in modifying the darker aspects of city life, and as greatly more popular and useful to the general public, an efficient scheme of district libraries and news-rooms, placed in the midst of the dwellings of the people. It is wise to profit by the experience of others, and a brief statement of what has been done in Manchester may be useful here. In that city the Public Library has, on the whole, been more fully and successfully developed under the operation of the Acts than anywhere else in Britain. At the date of the last report the establishment consisted of the central reference library, six branch lending libraries (each with a well-equipped news-room attached), and three smaller reading rooms. The number of volumes in the libraries is nearly 200,000, and the visits to the various libraries and news-rooms amounted to the enormous total of 4,442,499 in a year—a *daily* average of 12,628. The annual cost of maintenance, additions, and administration is about £4,000 for the reference library, and varies from £900 to £1,200 for each of the branches. We have here the outline of a scheme applicable with but little change to the circumstances of Glasgow. The Manchester system lacks one feature of value which is found in the public libraries of Birmingham, Leeds, Sheffield and many other towns—namely, a central lending library.

“As combining as far as possible the various advantages to be found in other cities, I would offer for your consideration the following development of the library portion of the appeal you print to-day:—

“A. Central reference library (the Mitchell Library) in the building you propose in George Square. Annual cost, say, £4,000.

“B. Central lending library and news-room in the building now being altered for the Mitchell Library in Miller Street. To this the time-honoured name of Stirling’s Library might be attached, and the Stirling’s Library form the nucleus of the new collection. Annual cost, say, £2,000.

“C. Six branch libraries and news-rooms, carefully placed so as to suit the convenience of the largest possible number of citizens. In connection with some well-defined group of these—say those on the South Side—the name of Baillie’s Institution might be used, and the Baillie Fund applied; and thus the names of the far-seeing and liberal men who have left large funds for library purposes would be held in deserved remembrance. The cost of these branch buildings, if taken at £6,000 each, would involve an annual charge of £360 each for interest and repayment. Allowing £800 each for annual outlays, there would be for each £1,160 per annum, and the total expenditure would work out something like this:—

Central—Reference (Mitchell’s) .....	£4,000
Central—Lending (Stirling’s) .....	2,000
Six branches at £1,160 .....	6,960

Total ..... £12,960

You show the produce of the penny rate at over £14,000.

“As you will see, the extension here suggested of the more popular departments of library work is not in any way detrimental to the central institution in George Square you have in view; while it cannot be doubted that a due appreciation by the ratepayers of the advantages to be enjoyed by all parts of the city—central and outer alike—will render them more willing to accept the rate, and so secure privileges which other great cities have long enjoyed.

“Should your scheme secure the favourable consideration of those in authority, it is obvious that the aggregate of available funds, as shown



in your tables, will be amply sufficient to erect a great building on George Square, to build and stock the district libraries, and to provide a large sum for purchasing pictures, sculptures and other art work for furnishing the new galleries, leaving the produce of the rate free, to be devoted to the service of the public. Glasgow would then pass almost at once from being the poorest to being among the richest of great communities in those means of culture and refinement which tend so strongly to the amenity of our city life."

**HAMPSTEAD.**—The report of the committee of the Hampstead Public (Proprietary) Library, read at the annual meeting on February 5th, was of a satisfactory character. The subscribers were increasing in number and the finances were improving. An unusually large number of really good books had been received as presents. Fair use had been made of the free reading room, both on Sunday and week day evenings, and some 120 working people had availed themselves of the privilege to borrow books without payment. Miss Abbott is librarian.

**HARROGATE.**—The new temporary premises of the public library are now open. The new room is sixty feet long by thirty feet wide, and the space allotted for readers will seat over 100 persons.

**KIDDERMINSTER.**—Alderman G. W. Grosvenor has promised £200 towards the cost of erecting the public library premises towards which an anonymous donor has given £500. The total cost of the new buildings is estimated at £2,000.

**LEE.**—Mr. J. G. White in vestry on January 17th, moved that it was desirable to ascertain the opinion of the ratepayers as to the expediency of adopting the Public Libraries Acts in the parish of Lee, but the proposal, in the absence of any requisition from the ratepayers, was negatived.

**LEEDS.**—The following paragraph (from the *Leeds Express* of January 13th) will make an excellent "test" for junior local examinations. It should be headed "Read the following for (1) accuracy, (2) syntax, and (3) taste" :—

"At the last meeting of the Leeds Public Library Committee a resolution was passed that the subscription to the English library publication be discontinued, and that the American one be continued, the Committee considering the last-named by far the best expositor of library work. When the English Library Association was formed in 1877, Mr. Melville Dewey proposed that their organ, which had then been running for twelve months, should be the organ for the two associations, and that the word 'American' should be omitted. The proposition was received with some contempt by the then secretary, Mr. Nicholson, but the feeling was not shown by some of the leading provincial officers, and the sequel has proved that Mr. Dewey's proposition ought to have been adopted. It is a singular fact that the best trade treatises are being produced in the United States, and disseminated in this country."

*The Library* reels under this crushing blow. It is too cruel. Had we been only warned in time we should have submitted our plans to this latest authority on library matters and implored the friendly oversight of our proofs. But we fear some guileful local bookseller has betrayed a too-confiding committee in search of "the best expositor of library work," for we earnestly disclaim any pretension to such a character and would positively rather lose the Leeds subscription than secure it by false pretences! Our humble aim is to be useful and perhaps interesting to librarians who have already learned their work and to intelligent lovers of the literature of books.

On the whole it is better to laugh than to be angry at the paragraphist's funny jumble of fact and fiction, with its dash of puerile



spite. Why Mr. Nicholson should receive with "some contempt" a proposal "that the word 'American' should be omitted" from the organ of the "English Library Association" is a problem too profound for our feeble powers.

But seriously, we are surprised that Mr. Spark, whom we esteem as a journalist of culture and distinction, should allow his "young men" to perpetrate such atrocities; and we trust it was not at the expense of the *Express* that marked copies of the issue in question were posted broadcast to librarians and library authorities all over the country!

LIVERPOOL.—On January 30th the public library which has been erected in Kensington for the convenience of the inhabitants of the East-end of Liverpool was formally opened to the public by the Mayor (Mr. Thomas Hughes) in the presence of a large assemblage of the City Council, and of the general public. The institution has been built upon a portion of the land at Kensington laid out by the Corporation as a recreation ground. It occupies an area of about 400 square yards, and comprises a reading-room thirty-eight feet by thirty-two feet, a lending library, librarian's room, and other adjuncts, the whole structure being so devised that the librarian can from his desk control both the reading and lending departments. The building was erected from plans prepared by Mr. Thomas Shelmerdine, junr. (Corporation architect and surveyor), and the whole cost is estimated at about £3,000. The grounds surrounding the library are being laid out ornamentally by Mr. J. Richardson, the curator of the parks. The interior of the building is well ventilated and lighted, and already upwards of 7,000 volumes have been placed upon its shelves.

LONDON: BETHNAL GREEN.—It is a good sign that the present building of the Bethnal Green Free Library has become quite inadequate for the needs of the institution, and that much larger premises are, if possible, to be erected. The sum of £20,000 is required, and many donations have already been received or promised. We may note that a largely attended meeting at the Bethnal Green Free Library lately started a students' union, for the study of various branches of science and art, in connection with the evening classes. This institution deserves the most generous support.

LONDON: CAMBERWELL.—The Minet Free Library, Myatt's Fields, Camberwell, is to be worked by a joint committee appointed by the Lambeth and Camberwell Free Library Commissioners.

LONDON: CHELSEA.—The London County Council has granted a loan of £12,150 to the Commissioners to defray the cost of acquiring a site and erecting a library. The Kensal Town Branch in Harrow Road, which was recently opened by the Rev. F. Relton (Chairman), is now in active work. It accommodates 150 readers.

LONDON: CHISWICK.—At a meeting on January 22nd, at the Chiswick School of Art, Lord George Hamilton mooted the establishment of a public library. He said—"Many localities had adopted the Public Libraries Acts, and he believed there was a feeling that if some such institution could be established in Chiswick it would be to the advantage of the neighbourhood. He had never known a single instance where a public library had been established that it had not given great satisfaction to the community, and been of great benefit to it." The recommendation was endorsed by Mr. Neighbour, who said that the Hammersmith Library had already proved a great success.

LONDON: CLERKENWELL.—The contract for the erection of the new library building in Skinner Street, has been secured by Messrs.

McCormick & Sons, Canonbury Road, N., for the sum of £6,554. This amount exceeds by nearly £1,500 the estimate of the architects and assessor, but the commissioners expect to be able to raise the amount of the deficiency by subscription, and are now collecting donations towards that end. The building is expected to be completed by July next.

LONDON: GUILDHALL LIBRARY.—Mr. Treloar moved in the Common Council on January 29th, "That it be referred to the Library Committee to consider as to the desirability of opening the Guildhall Library Museum, and Art Gallery on some part of Sundays, and to report their opinion thereon to this Court." After some discussion the "previous question" was carried by eighty-three to forty-three.

LONDON: LONDON LIBRARY.—The London Library has failed in an attempt to escape the inhabited house duty. It is condemned to pay 9d. in the £1 on an assessment of £600. The appeal was heard on January 23rd, and the following report appeared in the newspapers:

"The question raised in this case was whether the London Library should be assessed to house duty in respect to their premises in St. James's Square. The house was used as a library and reading-rooms, and was open every weekday to members. A bedroom and a sitting-room were given up to the use of an attendant in the library and his wife; they resided there for the protection of the premises, and no other person lived there. The property of the library was vested in trustees. The income was wholly derived from the subscriptions of members, and it was expended in the purchase of books and pamphlets and in the maintenance of the library. No profit was made. The appellants' case was that the premises were occupied solely for business purposes, but the Revenue Commissioners held that the premises were properly assessed to the house duty."

Mr. Douglas Walker for the appellants argued that the house was used solely for trade or business.

Mr. Justice Hawkins: What trade do they carry on?

Mr. Walker: The trade of lending books.

Mr. Justice Hawkins: A very dangerous trade—(laughter)—if a trade at all. It looked more like a club than a business affair. Can you mention any trade from the commencement of the world until now the object of which was not profit?

Mr. Walker could not at that moment name any such.

Mr. Justice Hawkins: I should think not.

Mr. Walker, however, argued that the words trade or business were used in the statute in a technical sense, and that this was not an inhabited dwelling house within the meaning of the statute.

Their Lordships, without calling upon Mr. Dicey, who appeared for the respondent, dismissed the appeal with costs, holding that the premises were liable to the duty."

LONDON: ST. MARTIN-IN-THE-FIELDS.—The Prince of Wales, who will be accompanied by the Princess of Wales, has appointed March the 18th, at half-past three o'clock, for the laying of the foundation-stone of the new Vestry Hall and Public Libraries to be erected in the Charing Cross Road.

LONDON: ST. MARYLEBONE.—In consequence of the great success which has attended this library since its opening in August last vigorous efforts are now being made to establish a branch library in the eastern portion of the borough. Suitable premises have been secured in Mortimer Street, W., and the Committee hope to have the library open within a few weeks. The stock of books at Lisson Grove now numbers about 4,000, of which the catalogue will shortly be in the press. The



number of borrowers is about 350, and the daily average of issues, 73 vols.

LONDON : STOKE NEWINGTON.—The Stoke Newington Vestry, on January 17th passed a unanimous resolution in favour of the establishment of a free library in the district ; and on February 5th the Public Libraries Acts were adopted by an enormous majority at a largely attended meeting of the ratepayers. The population of the parish is over 30,000.

NORWICH.—The Norwich Town Council has agreed unanimously to open its Free Library on Sundays from 3 to 9 p.m., as an experiment, but none of the weekday staff will be employed.

OXFORD.—The Oxford City Council decided in January to open the reading room of the public free library as an experiment on Sunday evenings, for two months.

POOLE, DORSET.—Mr. John J. Norton, who recently presented the borough of Poole with a free library, at a cost of nearly £3,000, has sent the Mayor of Poole a cheque for £100, the amount originally paid by the corporation for the site.

PORTSMOUTH.—Mr. Jewers reports that the Public Library has received a gift of 1,345 volumes, from the High Street Chapel Library.

READING.—The free library committee have decided upon adopting the electric light (arc and incandescent lamps) for the library and reading rooms instead of gas light.

SALE, CHESHIRE.—At a meeting of the Sale Local Board on February 4th, Mr. E. W. Joynson and the Rev. W. E. Chadwick, vicar of St. Paul's, Sale, presented a requisition for the calling of a public meeting to determine whether the Public Libraries Acts should be adopted in the district. Mr. Joynson said that the present Free library was a small one, and the committee had come to the conclusion that it was time to develop it. His brother (Mr. R. H. Joynson) and himself had arranged to give a plot of land in Tatton Road, valued at £130, and he read a list of twenty-five persons who had promised subscriptions in the aggregate amounting to £803 10s. Of this Sir William Cunliffe Brooks, M.P., promised £250, and the services of an architect. It was resolved that a meeting be called in compliance with the requisition. The meeting was held on February 18th, when the Acts were adopted by a unanimous vote.

ST. HELENS, LANCASHIRE.—A branch library and reading room has been opened at Sutton, about two miles from the Town Hall.

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A valuable paper by Mr. E. W. Mountford (Architect of the Battersea Public Library) on "The Planning of Free Public Libraries" was read before the Architectural Association on January 31st, and reported at length in the *Building News* of February 8th, and the *Builder* of February 15th.

Mr. Cecil T. Davis, Public Library, Wandsworth, has much pleasure in reporting that, in reply to the appeal for contributions on behalf of the widow and family of Mr. F. J. Comber, late senior assistant in the Birmingham Reference Library, he has received eleven guineas, which sum has been remitted to Mrs. Comber. She desires to express her grateful thanks to all those who contributed to the fund.



## Catalogues and Reports.

Borough of Bradford, Nineteenth Annual Report of the Public Free Libraries and Museum Committee for the year ended August 12th, 1889. pp. 28.

The central libraries have been painted, and consequently the issues in the reference library were somewhat less than in the previous year. In the lending library these were higher. The total visits to the library and branches were 1,420,404, and to the museum 292,001, against 1,309,505 in 1887-8. The total issues were 488,487 volumes, against 492,877 volumes. A branch was opened during the year. The central libraries and eight branches now contain 64,321 volumes. The Committee "call attention to the inadequacy of the funds at their disposal for carrying on the work under their charge . . . the money intended for the purchase of new books is mainly absorbed in replacing worn-out stock."

People's Palace Library, Mile End, E. The Report for the year ending October, 1889.

The present number of volumes amounts to 11,000; there is shelf-room for 250,000. During the year a catalogue was compiled, and published in September; the matter being arranged under authors, titles, and subjects, with cross-references. During the month of November, 1889, 38,378 persons availed themselves of the library, which also contains newspapers, daily and weekly. It has been found necessary to open for newspaper reading at 8 a.m. instead of 7.30 a.m. during the winter months. The London County Council have consented to supply the library with a copy of their minutes commencing from November 7th, 1889; these may be consulted at any time during library hours.

Belfast Free Public Library. Supplementary Catalogue of the Lending Library and Catalogue of the Juvenile Department. Compiled by G. H. Elliott, Librarian. 1889.

There is a lack of compactness in this catalogue and consequently a waste of space. The introduction of the use of hyphens in catalogues was to save space, but in this instance they are used without producing that result. Capitals are employed too freely and erratically. The supplement occupies 188 pages, and the juveniles' list 77 pages. Why should this be incorporated with the general catalogue? It is to be hoped that the list of juvenile books is also published separately. Unless this is the case the price—sixpence—is too much for the young folks. The juvenile department comprises 1,885 carefully selected volumes. As a whole the work is very satisfactory and is creditable to the compiler.

Catalogue of the Alloa Public Library (Circulating and Reference Departments), Act adopted 1885. Glasgow: Printed by William Hodge & Co., 1889.

This is one of the best printed catalogues we have seen. It was compiled and published at the cost of Mr. Thomson Paton of Norwood, who also gave the building and 7,300 vols. The printer has used his upper case too freely. The compiler has done his work well, but has been at no pains to indicate the real names of pseudonymous writers. There is ample space to give the initials of first names under title entries, which it is desirable to do when space allows of it, more especially when there are several writers who bear the same surname, as in the cases of Collins, Marryatt, Thackeray, Craik, Scott, Oliphant, Paull, Kingsley, Wood and others.

Christ Church, Southwark, Free Public Library and Reading Room, Charles Street, Blackfriars. Catalogue of [the] Lending Library. . . . 1889, pp. 49.

This is a classified catalogue with author and title entries, and is fairly well compiled, but bears traces of hurry in passing through the press. It is very compact, but the excessive omission of words results in the second rule, in an amusing hibernicism—"The library shall be open . . . *every* day . . . and such *other* days as the Commissioners may direct."

Putney Free Public Library. Catalogue of the Books in the Reference and Lending Departments. Compiled . . . by the Librarian [Mr. C. F. Tweney]. . . . 1889. Roy 8vo, pp. viii. 89.

Considerable skill is displayed in the compilation of this well-printed and cheap catalogue. The too profuse employment of capital letters, and the use of articles are slight blemishes which require remedying in future editions to make it an excellent one in every respect.

Watford Public Library, College of Science, Art, Music and Literature. Established in 1871, under the Public Libraries Acts. Handbook and Reports, 1888-9. Price 3d. pp. 78.

This useful handbook comprises a supplementary catalogue of two years' accessions, and is on the whole well planned and printed. The author entries of writers who have written under assumed names (as George Eliot, George Sand, Harry Collingwood, Cuthbert Bede) are under the fore-names instead of the surnames! The remaining portion is made up of prospectuses, lists of successful candidates at various examinations and of all the students, balance sheets, &c.

## Correspondence.

### MR. MASON'S LIST OF RATE SUPPORTED LIBRARIES.

*To the Editor of "The Library."*

SIR,—I have looked at only *two* places in Mr. Mason's list. First, Leicester, where I formerly lived, and was Curator of the Town Museum from 1843 to 1849, when I left that place; at which time it had no Free Library under any Act, nor until the year 1871. Mr. Mason's date is 1848, though Mr. Ewart's first Library Act was not passed until August, 1850.

Then I looked at Salford, where I have been Librarian since October, 1849. (I am now posting my forty-first Annual Report). This Library was opened January 9th, 1850, and so came under Ewart's Act when it was passed, eight months afterwards. In Mr. Mason's list he dates Salford as 1855, or five years after the first opening.

JOHN PLANT.

*Salford Borough Royal Museum and Library,  
February 7th, 1890.*

*To the Editor of "The Library."*

SIR,—I am much obliged by your courtesy in enabling me to answer Mr. Plant in the same number, in which his letter appears.

I took most of my dates from the Parliamentary Returns, published in 1885. In that Return 1855 is given as the date of adoption in Salford. A note underneath, however, states that "a library and



Museum were founded in May, 1849, under Museums Act." This note escaped my attention when compiling my list, else I should have dated Salford for 1849, as I have in the list recognised not only adoptions of the ordinary Public Libraries Acts, but of the earlier Museums Act and of private acts.

The same Return states in regard to Leicester that the "Council in 1848 availed itself of the powers conferred by 8 and 9 Vict. c. 43, and no formal adoption of the Public Libraries Acts was therefore necessary."

If Mr. Plant's curiosity had not been so easily satisfied he would have found that I gave the dates of *adoption* only, and not the dates when libraries were *opened*. That would have been an interesting addition to the list but it was beyond the limits of the list, which you, sir, asked me to prepare.

THOMAS MASON.

*St. Martin-in-the-Fields Public Library.*

## Library Association Record.

A SPECIAL general meeting was held in Gray's Inn on Monday, February 10th, at 8 p.m.

Mr. Robert Walker, of 33, King Street, Covent Garden, was proposed for election at next meeting.

In accordance with notice given, a motion was brought forward to modify the constitution as set forth in *The Library* for February. After some discussion, the previous question was moved and carried.

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The next monthly meeting will be held at 20, Hanover Square, on Monday, March 10th, at 8 p.m. Mr. Wakeling will read a paper entitled "How we built up a Burnt Library" (Birmingham). The Council will meet at 7.

### PUBLIC LIBRARY AUTHORITIES AND LEGISLATION.

From our report in the November number of *The Library* of the proceedings at the Conference of the Library Association, was inadvertently omitted an important resolution with regard to the action of Public Library Authorities with reference to prospective legislation. At the second day's sitting Mr. George L. Campbell (Wigan) spoke upon the subject, and on the last day he submitted the following resolution:

"That in view of the prospect of early legislation concerning Public Libraries, it is in the opinion of the Library Association of the United Kingdom desirable that a Committee similar to that which sat under the presidency of the late Sir Thomas Baker, representing as it did the Public Library Authorities of the kingdom, should be constituted."

Mr. Alderman Bailey (Salford) seconded the proposition, and it was unanimously adopted, together with one appointing the following a Convening Committee:—Mr. Alderman Walter Smith (Manchester), Mr. Alderman G. J. Johnson (Birmingham), Mr. Alderman W. H. Bailey (Salford), Mr. T. Prescott (St. Martin-in-the-Fields), Mr. Axon, Manchester, the Treasurer and Hon. Secretaries of the Association, with Messrs. C. W. Sutton and George L. Campbell as Secretaries.

Now that Parliament has assembled immediate action will be taken, and we hope to announce something definite in our next issue.



PUBLIC LIBRARIES: MONTHLY RETURN OF ISSUES, &c.  
JANUARY, 1890.

Name and No. of Libraries in operation.	REFERENCE LIBRARIES.				Sunday. Daily Average Attendance.	LENDING LIBRARIES.					
	No. of Vols.	Issue for Month.	Days Open.	Daily Average		No. of Borrowers.	No. of days Books lent.	No. of Vols.	Issue for Month.	Days Open.	Daily Average.
Barrow - in-Furness 1	2,275	1,731	26	66	...	2,374	14	13,113	9,475	26	364
Battersea 1 ...	...	...	...	...	...	3,974	14	5,524	9,430	26	362
Birkenhead 1	11,218	10,106	26	389	...	5,973	7, 10 & 14	32,829	14,651	26	564
Bradford 9 ...	23,444	7,906	31	256	1,175	10,437	7 & 14	45,548	40,128	27	1,486
Bristol 6 .....	15,412	25,521	24	1,063	...	18,654	6	58,769	36,434	24	1,518
Cambridge 2...	9,904	1,160	27	43	...	3,129	14	26,084	7,210	17	424
Cardiff 1 .....	13,330	1,220	27	45	...	6,294	14	17,265	13,012	27	481
Chelsea 2 .....	3,860	2,617	31	139	552	509	14	4,408	982	11	89 <sup>1</sup>
Clapham 1 .....	611	744	22	34	...	3,103	14	4,016	7,708	22	350
Clerkenwell 1	1,151	...	...	...	...	2,518	15	8,687	7,095	27	262
Fulham 1 .....	2,394	228	22	10	208	5,466	14	5,538	9,599	22	436
Glasgow: Mitchell 1	85,200	31,843	26	1,225	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Glasgow, Bailie's Inst. 1	9,000	3,748	25	150	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Hanley 1 .....	2,073	500	26	19	...	1,853	7 & 10	5,737	6,386	26	246
Kensington 3	Lending	995	31	34	?	?	14	13,941	10,549	22	480
Leeds 27 .....	40,891	11,391	27	421	...	21,259	14	115,867	64,272	27	1,114 <sup>2</sup>
Leicester 3 ...	9,799	3,328	27	122	...	7,400	7	22,677	25,755	27	954
Liverpool 3 ...	94,991	40,526	23 <sup>3</sup>	1,712 <sup>3</sup>	...	8,366	10	45,871	30,513	27	1,130
Norwich 1 .....	6,431	...	...	...	...	3,690	14	12,597	9,736	22	443
Paddington 1	3,180	172	31	5.5	87	...	...	...	...	...	...
Portsmouth 1	2,990	396	27	14	...	11,453	7 & 14	17,966	23,978	27	888
Reading 1 .....	3,615	748	27	27	...	7,107	14	15,740	14,509	24 <sup>1</sup>	592
Richmond 1 ...	6,799	666	22	30	...	3,019	7	9,167	9,027	22	410
Sheffield 5 ..	12,942	3,451	26	133	...	12,826	7 & 14	79,724	37,324	26	1,435
Southwark 1 ...	Lending	378	27	14	...	170	7	2,500	453	22	20
Tynemouth 1	4,195	1,085	22	49	...	3,974	10	21,974	11,279	22	513
Wandsworth 1	3,199	224	22	10	...	3,336	7	7,498	7,010	22	318
Westminster 2	Lending	6,088	25	243	...	3,883	14	21,769	7,778	25	311
Wimbledon 1	1,859	798	27	29	...	2,370	7	5,629	7,738	27	286
Wolverhampton 1	5,378	1,118	22	50	...	1,876	14	25,012	6,107	22	277
Yarmouth 2 ...	2,174	351	26	14	...	3,296	7 & 14	8,738	11,919	26	458

<sup>1</sup> Branch Lending Library only opened on January 18th, 1890.

<sup>2</sup> Average for Central Lending Library only.

<sup>3</sup> Excluding the use made of 5 evening Reading Rooms with a total attendance of 10,205; and the issue of 25,135 magazines, directories, &c.

## On Some Colophons of the Early Printers.\*

THE paper to which I am about to invite attention belongs to the class which Mr. Chancellor Christie has very justly entitled "haphazard papers," lying outside the proper work of the Library Association, and contributing little or nothing to promote it. It is written to recommend a slight literary undertaking which could not possibly find a place in the programme of our body. I can only plead that a certain variety has always been thought conducive to the interest of our gatherings; that it may be well to show that no province of book-lore is altogether too remote for our attention; and that a prolusion on an out-of-the-way subject may have, so to speak, a kind of decorative value; as a sprig of barberries, though nobody wants to eat it, may serve as garnish for a substantial dish. The little enterprise I have to recommend is the publishing in a small volume, of such colophons, or attestations of the completion of a book by a printer, as belong to the fifteenth century, and possess individual features of interest, not being mere matter-of-fact announcements or repetitions from former productions of the same press.

There are two main sources of interest in the colophon—the bibliographical and the personal. Taking the former first, it may be remarked that for a long time the colophon supplied the place of the title-page. It would be impossible to give a catalogue of very early title-pages, for very early books had no title-pages. In his charming and beautifully illustrated papers on the "History of the Title-Page," recently published in the *Universal Review*—which I strongly recommend to your perusal—Mr. Alfred Pollard, of the British Museum, tells us that the first English title-page is assigned to the year 1491. It had come into use sooner on the Continent, but the first example, which still requires to be definitely ascertained, was probably not earlier than 1476, or more than twenty years subsequent to

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\* Read at the Annual Meeting of the Library Association, London, Oct., 1889.

the invention of printing. It was not until 1490 that title-pages became the rule, or until 1493 that the printer's or publisher's name began to be given upon the title. Up to this date, then, even when the book has a title-page, the printer or publisher can only be ascertained from the colophon, and before 1490 you must generally go to the colophon even for the description of the book. The reason is, no doubt, the extent to which the printer was influenced by the example of his predecessor, the copyist. It was more natural for the scribe to record the completion of his labours at the end of his manuscript than to announce their commencement on the first leaf. In expressing his satisfaction and thankfulness on the last page he would naturally mention the name of the book he had been engaged upon, and hence his successor, the printer, inherited the habit of giving all information about a book not stated in a prologue or table of contents, at the end instead of at the beginning—in a colophon rather than on a title-page. The same custom had prevailed in classic times. The ancient title, when inscribed within the covers of the manuscript, was, says Rich, "written at the end instead of the commencement, at least it is so placed in all the Herculean MSS. which have been unrolled." Sometimes, however, it was written on a separate label affixed to the roll so as to hang down outside: and on the same principle it may be conjectured that when manuscripts came to be bound, much of the inconvenience occasioned by the want of a title was obviated by the title being written on the binding.

It must, nevertheless, seem surprising that so simple and useful a contrivance as a title-page should not have been thought of sooner. In one respect, however, the employment of the colophon for so long a period is not to be regretted. If the title-page is more practical, the colophon is more individual and characteristic. The title-page may tell us something of the character of the author when it is his own wording, but as a rule nothing of the printer beyond the bare facts of his locality and his existence. But into the colophon the early printer has managed to put a great deal of information about himself. He often becomes, or at least hires, a poet. He boasts, and generally not without ground, of his industry and accuracy. He usually records the precise day when his work was completed, and sometimes the exact time spent upon it. He sometimes, as in an instance quoted by Mr. Pollard, brings in a bishop to help his book with a recommendation.



All this is very interesting in so far as it helps to make the old printers real to us. We would fain know more of men to whom we are so greatly indebted, and who, we are sure, must have been individually interesting. I will not say that this early age was the heroic age of printing, for the history of the art is fertile in examples of heroism down to this day, and perhaps the greatest man who ever exercised it—Benjamin Franklin—was a modern. But there certainly must have been a romance about the early days of printing not easily reproduced now. Romantic circumstances must have attended the flight of the first printers from the besieged city of Mentz, where the art had been extensively carried on for so many years. When we see how largely these German emigrants settled in Italy and France, and had almost a monopoly of Spain, we perceive that they must have been men of great enterprise. How did they overcome the difficulties that must have beset them as settlers in foreign countries? Is it not a fair conjecture that the difficulty of language was partly overcome by their being men of liberal education, and speaking Latin? Still they would have workmen to direct; did they bring journeymen of their own country with them, or instruct foreigners? The interest attaching to this question tempts me to a brief digression into a subject not properly comprised in my essay; the colophon, so far as I am aware, throwing no light upon it. It seems probable that foreign printers were attended in their migrations by bodies of journeymen; for in the privilege granted by the Venetian Senate in 1469 to Joannes de Spira, the first Venetian printer, he is said to have come to live in Venice with his wife, his children, and his entire *familia*. The *familia*, then, is expressly distinguished from his wife and children; besides which the word never means in the classical writers, nor, so far as I can discover, in the mediæval either, family in our sense of kindred, but only of household: and as he is not likely to have brought domestic servants with him, must be understood to denote here the troop of workmen of whom he was the head; who had evidently immigrated also with him. We are also told that a priest, Clemente Patavino, the first Italian who ever exercised the art of printing, taught himself by his own ingenuity, without having ever seen any one at work. From this we may infer that the presses were jealously guarded, and that the workmen were not Italians, or Clemente could not have been the first Italian to learn the craft. His first

book was printed in 1471, several years after the introduction of printing into Italy.

Other interesting questions respecting the early printers remain which we should much like to have answered. Did they try to keep their art and mystery secret? Were they their own type-founders? were their types cast near the scene of their labours, or transported from great distances? How did they set about obtaining the favour of the great men who patronised them? Was their discovery universally welcomed by the learned? or did some consider that books were low, and manuscripts alone worthy the attention of a self-respecting collector? Were they stunned by the objurgations of angry copyists? or endangered by any supposed connection with the black art? Were they in general their own editors and proof-correctors? and what were their relations with the scholars who aided them in their departments, or wrote dedications for their books? At a considerably later period we obtain most satisfactory insight into the economy of a great printing establishment from the memoirs of the house of Plantin, at Antwerp. For these early times, except for such information as may be derived from the accidental discovery of contracts and similar documents, we must depend upon hints gleaned from the books themselves, which are usually found in their colophons.

Neither my time nor yours would admit of my entering into the matter very deeply at present, but I have selected a few instances, entirely from books printed at Rome and Venice, which may serve to indicate what illumination colophons may occasionally contribute to the obscurity of early typography, and sometimes to that of the manners and ideas of the times. And here I may remark incidentally that the history of early printing is highly creditable to the age which fostered the art, and to them who exercised it, without, one may almost say, producing a single frivolous book for fifty years. An account of it mainly from the point of view of its contact with human life—the books which the early printers thought worth reproducing, the success of these, as attested by the comparative frequency of their republication, the proportion in which studies and professions, arts and trades, respectively benefited by the new discovery,—would make a fascinating story in the hands of a writer of insight and sympathy. We have materials enough; it is now required to make the dry bones live.



In a colophon it will naturally be expected that among the sentiments more frequently finding expression, should be the printer's joy in his art, and assertion of its claims to admiration. Udalricus Gallus, of Rome, boasts that he can print more matter in a day than a copyist can transcribe in a year: "Imprimit ille die quantum non scribitur anno." The same printer tells the geese that saved the Capitol that they may keep their quills for the future, as the cock (*Gallus*) has cut them out. Joannes de Spira, the first printer established at Venice, declares that his first attempt has so far surpassed the work of the scribes that the reader need set no bounds to his anticipations; just as an electric light company might advertise "Gas entirely superseded." He celebrates his type as more legible than manuscript:

Namque vir ingenio mirandus et arto Joannes  
Exscribi docuit clarius aere libros.

Now the word *docuit* (*taught*) is not really appropriate to one who merely exercised an art he had learned from others. The question might be raised whether the reference is not to the inventor of printing, Joannes Gutenberg, and whether in this book of 1469 we have not the earliest testimony to his invention of printing. If so, this is indeed a precious colophon; but I suppose it must be admitted to be more likely that Spira was thinking of himself, or that his poet was not over-discriminating in his praise of his employer. The point, however, is worth considering. Spira's brother, Vindelinus, enunciates the excellent maxim that the renown of a printer is rather to be estimated by the beauty than by the number of his productions.

Nec vero tantum quia multa volumina, quantum  
Qui perpulchru penul optimi que.

Nothing, indeed, is more characteristic of the early printers than the stress they laid upon accuracy. From another colophon we learn that an edition of Sallust at that early period consisted of five hundred copies. In another colophon the same printer declares that he will deign to sell nothing that is not perfectly correct. In another he talks of having carefully expurgated his author, as if he had been printing Juvenal or Martial, but as the author is a divine the remark can only refer to the correctness of the text. John of Cologne goes further still, and asserts that his book is absolutely immaculate:

Emptor habes careant omni qui crimine libri,  
Quos securus emas, procul et quibus exulat error.



Occasionally the corrector's name is mentioned. A remarkable instance of this is where Vindelinius de Spira prints an Italian book, the "Divine Comedy," the language of which he probably would not understand, when Christoval Berardi, of Pesaro, is especially named as the corrector in an Italian sonnet probably composed by himself. In an instance of an arithmetical work the printer, Erhard Ratdolt, distinctly claims the merit of the correctness of the press as his personal merit, and we learn from other sources that he was a good mathematician.

Another class of colophon sets forth the merits of the author instead of those of the printer, and it is noteworthy that these, when in verse, are generally expressed in a more elegant style. It is to be regretted that the verses written for Sweynheym and Pannartz, the fathers of the art in Italy, were generally so bad; yet there is something to be learned from them. We discover that they thought it necessary to apologise for their uncouth German names (*Aspera ridebis Teutonica nomina forsan*); and that a Roman patrician named Maximus—a man to be ever honoured for his public spirit—had given them and their press house room in his palace. We learn from other colophons that an edition of Sallust consisted of four hundred copies, and that two editions of Cicero's Epistles to his friends were carried through the press in four months. The comparative cheapness of typography is also a frequent matter of congratulation. It is said to have brought Virgil within the reach of all scholars, and to have enabled every man to be his own lawyer; but the printer seldom or never tells us what the price of the volume was. We observe that the trade of the book-producer has not yet become differentiated into the two great classes of printers and publishers. While, as before remarked, there is every reason to conclude that the early printers were persons of liberal education; we do not, so far as I am aware, find evidence of this mechanical craft being exercised by men of gentle blood. I have, however, already mentioned the priestly printer, Clemente Patavino, and a colophon reveals that the printers of one book were two priests. One rather wonders what became meanwhile of their religious duties. I suppose that a priest would not in general have been allowed to follow a secular calling, at least openly, but in this instance of printing, there is no attempt at concealment. A circumstance honourable in its way to the craft to which we owe our existence, and suggesting that the ecclesiastical authorities of the fifteenth century thought of

printers as our friend Mr. Dewey rightly tells us that we ought to think of librarians.

Enough, perhaps, has been said to warrant the suggestion of a little book of Colophons, bringing together what must now be laboriously hunted up from Panzer, Hain and similar authorities. Its principal aim should be to collect whatever might illustrate the feelings with which the ancient printers regarded themselves and their art in the fifteenth century; but every colophon should also be given which throws light on contemporary history and public feeling on any subject. I should, for instance, include that in which the peaceful character of Paul II.'s pontificate is recognised by the epithet "*placatum*," and any that conveyed a compliment to a king, doge, or any leading personage of the time. Such a little volume, tastefully executed, something after the pattern of Monsieur Müntz's delightful little book in the Vatican Library under Platina, would, I believe, be a favourite companion with many an amateur of ancient typography.

In conclusion I may say a few words respecting what we are endeavouring to do at the British Museum for the illustration of early printing. Of the little exhibition of title-pages and colophons displayed at the Association's visit to the Museum yesterday, since you have all seen it, I need only say that the credit of collecting and arranging it is entirely due to Mr. Pollard, whose essay on the subject I have already recommended to your perusal. A more permanent collection is contemplated, which I believe will be of substantial benefit to the study of ancient printing. When the requisite funds are procured, as it is hoped will shortly be the case, it is intended to provide additional glazed presses in the library, with the view of bringing together examples of every description of type used by a printer of incunabula, that is, of books produced during the fifteenth century. Mr. Aldrich, a gentleman deeply versed in typographic lore, to whom the selection of these examples will be entrusted, will arrange them as far as possible in the alphabetical order of the towns where the art of printing was exercised, keeping the works of each printer together. This collection, though not shown to the public, will always be accessible to experts. Its value to them is obvious, and we hope it will also be of material service in disclosing the numerous deficiencies of the Museum, in representative specimens of early type, and prompting efforts to make them good. There is no idea of assembling together all the incunabula in the Museum, which would be impracticable

for many reasons, but only representative examples of the various types. The foundation, however, of a general catalogue of incunabula has been laid in a manner which I have previously stated to the American Library Association, namely, by printing copies of the catalogue on one side only. When the catalogue is finished we shall, by merely cutting out the entries of any particular description of books, obtain a classed catalogue of the entire subject, among others, of our incunabula ; this list can be placed in the reading room for general reference, and, if sufficient encouragement is forthcoming, be reprinted and published as a distinct catalogue, revised with the careful attention to minutiae which would be out of place in a general working catalogue like that of the entire library, but which may well be expected in a speciality. The standard of accuracy has risen, and bibliographers are dissatisfied with what many deemed excessive nicety when the Museum rules were framed. It is improbable that I shall have any concern with this catalogue of the future, if I had I would ask the Trustees' leave to dedicate it to the memory of the man to whom we are chiefly indebted for this particular development of scientific cataloguing—Henry Bradshaw.

RICHARD GARNETT.





## Christopher Plantin.

## V.

CONSIDERING the magnitude and importance of the great Polyglot and the time and labour required for its production, it might well be supposed that during the four years it was in progress few other works would have issued from the Plantin press. Such, however, was far from being the case, and these same years witnessed the beginning of another enterprise, not so striking, indeed, as that of the Royal Bible, but also of a theological character, and one especially approved by the Holy See. This was the printing of the new authorised Breviaries. Plantin had already printed a Breviary so early as 1557, and again in 1561, but these and other existing Breviaries were now, by the Pope's order, to be superseded by an amended edition.

In 1568 Pius V. issued a Brief stating that since the days of Gregory VII. the Breviary had been greatly altered and corrupted; he therefore proscribed the further use of any such and forbade the publication of others differing from the original, ordering the universal adoption of a new one authorized by himself—the right of printing which he granted exclusively to Paolo Manuzio, who, in 1568, accordingly printed an edition in folio and another in octavo. Plantin, too shrewd not to endeavour to obtain a share in what he saw was likely to prove a very lucrative business, applied for the printing of the new Breviary in the Netherlands. His application was supported by the influence of Cardinal Granvelle, and was received not unfavourably by the Pope and by Manuzio, with the latter of whom Plantin finally made an agreement, approved by Pius, by which he acquired the right of supplying the new Breviary in the Low Countries. He accordingly at once set to work, but was stopped by the news that the Pope had ordered a further revision, and by the fact that another printer in Antwerp itself, one Trognesius, had contrived not only to obtain the Pope's licence, but had also been beforehand with him in applying for the additional licence of the Council of Brabant. Trognesius was a persistent and formidable rival, but the proto-typographer of the Spanish monarch proved more than a match for him, and at length succeeded in driving him out of the field, though at a

considerable cost of both time and money. In 1569, however, the printing of the Breviary went on merrily, no less than five editions being ascribed to that year, the forerunners of numerous others.

Side by side with the Breviary of Pius V. appeared a series of the new Missal ordered and approved by the same Pontiff in 1570. The Pope had appointed Bartolommeo Foletti printer of this in Rome, but Plantin obtained the privilege of supplying the copies required in the Low Countries, Hungary and portions of Germany, his first edition bearing the date 1571. In the following year he issued one with engravings, and in 1574 appeared the most magnificent of all—a grand folio volume with numerous illustrations, several copies being printed on vellum.

It was during this busy period that the resources of Plantin's press were still further called into requisition, and his own industry and energy exercised, by carrying out a scheme of the King's—the supply, namely, of all the liturgical works required throughout his dominions. Philip had already, in 1570, as before mentioned, appointed Plantin proto-typographer royal, and now, in the following year, charged him with this new undertaking, in aid of which he forwarded a contribution of money and his orders to Alva to render Plantin every assistance possible. The effect of the King's demands was to increase enormously the already vast amount of work to which Plantin was committed—the number of copies of Breviaries, Missals and other similar books sent by him to Spain down to 1576 amounting to the huge total of upwards of fifty-two thousand.

The labour entailed by the production of this mass of printed matter added to that required by the great Bible and the numerous other books issued at the same time, might well seem to have been enough, and more than enough, to overwhelm the most indefatigable of printers; but Plantin, ever eager to embark in some new venture, and ever on the look-out for some fresh subject on which to expend his unwearied diligence, applied himself to still further toil. The principal result of his efforts was a beautiful edition of Hours illustrated by van der Borcht, Wiericx, and Huys in 1570, and one of the *Humanæ Salutis Monumenta* of Arias Montanus with many exquisite engravings and dated 1571, in which year and in 1572 appeared also a magnificent Psalter and Antiphonary. But perhaps the most cele-



brated work issued during the years 1568-76 is, next to the Polyglot, the great Flemish-Latin Dictionary of 1573, a monument of the combined learning and industry of Plantin and his chief assistant in the work, Cornelius van Kiel, and a book which has kept its ground even down to the present day.

Cornelius van Kiel, one of the greatest scholars and philologists of his time, was born in 1528 at Duffel, near Antwerp, and at the age of thirty entered Plantin's establishment in a subordinate capacity from which he gradually rose to a position of higher literary importance, though his services and talents seem never to have been adequately rewarded. He continued to work for Plantin and his successors till his death in 1607. He was the editor and author of several works, one of the principal being in addition to Plantin's above-named Dictionary, his own *Etymologicum Teutonicæ Linguae*, which passed through various editions between the years 1574 and 1599, and continued to be frequently reprinted at intervals after its author's death down to 1777.

In 1576 Plantin moved to the house in the Marché du Vendredi, now forming the Musée Plantin-Moretus, and in the same year took place the frightful sack of Antwerp by the Spaniards, commonly called the "Spanish Fury," in which Plantin, like every other citizen, suffered severely. Finding himself in great straits he was forced to undertake a journey to Liege, Paris and Frankfort to raise money to pay his debts, and, occupying as he did a prominent position as printer to the King, he had also to contend with political difficulties and endeavour to stand well with both the Spanish and National Government. He managed this so skilfully that, without apparently incurring the hostility of the former, he was appointed printer to the States-General in 1578, and to the city of Antwerp in 1579; and in spite of all reverses and the critical state of affairs in the Netherlands, he declined to take advantage of the favourable opportunity of returning to his native country afforded to him by the offer of the French King's patronage. On the contrary, he sold all his property in Paris, and retained that in Antwerp. He also refused to enter the service of the Duke of Savoy who was anxious he should come and settle at Turin.

In 1583, however, he quitted Antwerp for a residence of two years at Leyden, leaving the Antwerp business in charge of his sons-in-law, John Moretus and Francis Raphelingien, and being himself appointed printer to the University of Leyden. This



step on the part of Plantin occasioned some surprise to his friends of the Roman Church, Leyden being a stronghold of Protestantism, but no doubt Plantin felt the need of some place of repose after his many years of labour and anxiety, and he was probably induced to fix upon Leyden owing to its being at that time the residence of his intimate friend Lipsius, and also of Chrétien Porret, natural son of Pierre Porret, the dearly-loved "brother" of his early life.

During his stay at Leyden, Plantin printed several editions of Greek and Latin classics, and other works of no special interest. Amongst those of greater importance were the History of the Counts of Holland by Barlandus and the *Spiegel der Zeevaerdt* by Lucas Jansz.

In 1585 Alexander Farnese was conducting his celebrated siege of Antwerp, and on quitting Leyden in that year Plantin consequently made his way by a circuitous route to Cologne through Amsterdam, Hamburg and Frankfort, in the course of which journey he encountered a very stormy voyage of several days' duration. On reaching Cologne he heard the news of the surrender of Antwerp, so abandoned his intention of remaining in the former city, and towards the close of 1585 found himself once more in the Marchè du Vendredi. The disturbed state of the times and the master's absence had dealt a severe blow to the great Antwerp press, but indefatigable as ever, in spite of increasing age and ill-health, Plantin at once set himself to work to bring it back into something like its former order and activity. But the glorious days of yore had passed away, never to return, and the grand old printer himself was forced to own, however unwillingly, that it was so, and to sadly speak of "nostre jadis florissante et ores flaitrissante imprimerie."

A few more uneventful years of failing health and strength, years rendered still more trying by fruitless efforts to obtain payment of the various sums owed by Philip, and then came the end. For several weeks he suffered from a painful illness borne with his usual patient endurance, and at length on the first of July, 1589, as day was breaking and the shadows fading away, surrounded by those nearest and dearest to him, in peace and charity with all men, and breathing with his last breath the name of Jesus, Christopher Plantin passed gently to his rest.

For forty years Plantin had lived and laboured in Antwerp, a foreigner and yet attached to her as strongly and devotedly as any of her own native citizens. Far-seeing and hard-working, bold to venture on any new undertaking and tenacious of pur-

pose in everything he once undertook ; patient in adversity and undaunted by difficulties and distress, he stands out before us as a noble example of his own favourite *Labor et Constantia*, and the last lines traced by his hand express perhaps better than anything else the ruling characteristics of his life.

*Un labeur courageux muni d'humble constance  
Résiste à tous assauts par douce patience.*

Plantin was buried in Antwerp Cathedral, and a monument was erected to his memory, adorned with various paintings and the following epitaph, written by his old and constant friend, Justus Lipsius :—

D. O. M. S.  
Christophoro Plantino Turonensi,  
civi et incolæ Antverpiano,  
architypographo regio,  
pietate, prudentia, acrimonia ingeni magno,  
Constantia ac Labore maximo ;  
cujus industria atque opera, infinita opera,  
vetera, nova,  
magno et hujus et futuri sæculi bono  
in lucem prodierunt ;  
Joanna Riviera, conjux et liberi hæredesque,  
illa opt. viro, hi parenti,  
moesti posuerunt.  
Tu qui transis, et hæc legis, bonis manibus,  
bene apprecare.  
Vixit ann. LXXV, desit hic  
vivere Kal. Quintil,  
anno Christi  
CIC.ID.XXCIX

This was destroyed in 1798 and its place has since been supplied by another bearing this inscription :—

D. O. M.  
Christophori Plantini  
Architypographi Regij  
Monumentum  
Vixit annos L  
et  
Joannæ Rivieræ  
eius coniugis  
obiit xvi Kal. Septemb.  
M.D.XC. ...  
Requiescant in pace.

The total value of Plantin's property at the time of his death is calculated by M. Rooses at 1,200,000 francs of present money. By a joint will executed by Plantin and his wife, this was left to be divided equally, after the death of both testators, between their five daughters—the press at Antwerp, however, including the house and all its contents, being specially bequeathed to John Moretus and his wife. The Leyden property had been already transferred during Plantin's life-time to his eldest daughter Marguerite and her husband.

John Moretus and his son Balthazar proved worthy of their great predecessor, and the Plantin press was maintained by them and their descendants down to our own day, till in 1876—more than three hundred years after its founder first set foot in Antwerp—it passed from their family into the possession of that city, to which, under the new name of the Musée Plantin-Moretus, may it long remain a cherished memorial of one of the most illustrious printers of the sixteenth century.

To give a detailed account of more than a very few of the many books printed by Plantin would far exceed the limits of this paper. Their titles alone, and the mere outline of their contents would fill a volume, as indeed they have already done in the *Annales Plantiniennes* of MM. Ruelens and de Backer,\* an indispensable work which, exhaustive as it seems, yet falls short of completeness. Even the magnificent folio of M. Rooses† which in its beauty of typography and richness of illustration, its fulness and accuracy in everything relating to the history of Plantin himself, his family and fellow-workers, leaves little to be desired—even this grand book notices but slightly, or omits altogether, several volumes necessary to form a perfect Plantin collection. I will conclude this sketch by mentioning some which have come under my own observation whilst making notes supplementary of the *Annales*, and which appear to have wholly or almost escaped the researches not only of the authors of that work, but even of M. Rooses himself.

The *Divers propos memorables* of Gilles Corrozet was originally printed at Paris in 1556, and in the following year an edition was brought out by Plantin: *Les Divers Propos Memorables des Nobles*

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\* *Annales Plantiniennes depuis la fondation de l'imprimerie plantinienne à Anvers jusqu'à la mort de Chr. Plantin (1555-1589) par C. Ruelens & A. de Backer.* Paris, 1866, 8vo.

† *Christophe Plantin, Imprimeur Anversoïs, par Max. Rooses.* Anvers, 1882, folio.



*Et illustres hommes de la Chrestienté. Par Gilles Corrozet. A Anvers. Chez Christophle Plantin, 1557. 16mo.* This little volume does not seem to be in the Musée Plantin-Moretus, M. Rooses merely giving the title of it and quoting two copies only as known to him, one in the Royal Library at Brussels, and one in a private collection. It is not in the British Museum, nor have I ever met with any copy except that in my own possession. It would thus appear to be of considerable rarity, and it is interesting as being one of the books with the device of the Vine and the motto *Christus Vera Vitis*, alluded to as an indication of Plantin's sympathy with the teaching of the reformers.

Another book of earlier date is that by the Dominican Bartholome de Miranda: *Instrucion y Doctrina de como todo Christiano deue oyr Missa y assistir à la Celebracion y Santo Sacrificio, que en ella se haze. Segun que el Maestro Fray Bartholome de Miranda lo tratò predicando en presencia de la Majestad d'el Rey de Inglaterra y Príncipe de España, nuestro Señor. Escrita por el mismo, à petición d'el Illustrissimo Señor Duque de Medina Celi. En Anvers. Impresso por Christoforo Plantino, cerca de la Bolsa nueva, 1555. Con Privilegio. 12mo.* This is an exquisite little volume measuring  $4\frac{1}{2}$  by  $2\frac{1}{2}$  inches only, and of extraordinary rarity, very few copies having been executed and these mostly for the private use of the Medina Celi family. It is the first Spanish book printed by Plantin, with the exception, perhaps, of the translation of Seneca of the same year, the privilege for which is dated a few months earlier than that granted for the *Instrucion*. The discourse contained in it was delivered in the Chapel Royal at Kingston-on-Thames before Philip of Spain and Mary of England by Bartholome de Carranza, called Miranda, from his birthplace. He was a Dominican and almoner to the Duke of Medina Celi, and was afterwards successively confessor to Queen Mary and Archbishop of Toledo. Accused by his enemies of heresy, he was arrested by order of the Inquisition, sent to Rome, and imprisoned for ten years in the Castle of St. Angelo. Being at length acquitted and released, he returned to Spain, but only to incur further persecution. He was compelled to make a formal statement of his orthodoxy, and died seventeen days afterwards. These particulars are from a MS. note in the copy in the Grenville Library, British Museum—the only specimen of the book I have seen.

The last of Plantin's productions which I shall mention is also in Spanish; *Quatro elegantissimas y gravissimas Orationes de*

*M. T. Ciceron, contra Catilina, trasladadas en lengua Española, Por el Doctor Andres de Laguna, Medico de Iulio III. Pontifice Maximo. En Anvers, En casa de Christoual Plantin en el Vnicornio Dorado. 1557. Con gratia y Privilegio.*  $5\frac{1}{2}$  by  $3\frac{1}{2}$  inches. A scarce edition of this translation was printed at Madrid in 1532, and this of Plantin's seems to be one of the very rarest of his publications. M. Rooses mentions a copy in the Musée Plantin-Moretus, but quotes the title incorrectly. There is no copy in the British Museum, which endeavoured to obtain the one in the Sunderland Library on the sale of that collection. This, however, passed into private hands, and to the kind courtesy of the present owner I am indebted for the inspection of it. In addition to its rarity this little book seems to possess a peculiar interest from the following passage in the Dedicatory Epistle. In this the translator inveighs against the prevailing fashion of reading nothing but foolish romances, "tantos Esplandines, tantos Gayferos, tantos Amadis de Gaula, con tanto estrago del tiempo, y con tanta ruyna y destruycion de claros ingenios: que pudiendose ocupar en lecciones pias y sagradas, y llenas de doctrina y singulares exemplos, se consumen en ficciones, mentiras, burlas, y vanidades, de las quales à la fin no saca el lector otra cosa, sino dolor, y arrepentimiento, de hauer empleado tan mal sus horas." Is it not possible that these words may have been read by Cervantes and have given him (partly at all events) the idea of writing *Don Quixote*? Whilst indulging in this fancy it is tempting to go a step further, and to imagine that the copy of the book lying before us is the very one which upwards of three hundred years ago was in the hands of the immortal Miguel himself!

REGINALD S. FABER.



## The Great "She" Bible.—III.

### EXPLANATION OF THE TABLE.

THE table is intended to enable any copy of an A, B, or C Bible to be collated with ease. The first column gives the signature of the *sheet*. It must be understood that A1 includes the leaves A1 and A6; A2 includes A2 and A5; A3 includes A3 and A4. The second column gives the reference to the test word, book, chapter, verse, and *line in the verse*. m signifies margin. The third, fourth and fifth columns give carefully-selected tests by which the A, B, and C sheets may be discriminated throughout the large portion of the Bible where duplicated sheets exist. Wherever possible, the editor's space and the collator's time are saved by the choice of a single test, which will serve for all three sheets. Now and then such single test could not be found, and then two tests are given, each of which discriminates one sheet from the other two. The use of facsimile reproductions of the large initials, in which Fry indulges with regal magnificence, has been avoided as far as possible, not merely for the sake of economy, but also because in practical use they are less convenient than the humbler tests which I offer. The point of the test often consists in the distribution of words in the line. The mark / signifies the beginning or end of a line. Thus for one of the tests we have

A	B	C
Psal. xliii., 2, 1   strength, /	my /	the /

In this case the line indicated in the reference ends with "strength" in one Bible, "my" in another, "the" in the third. The meaning of the sixth and seventh columns are already sufficiently explained (see page 100, March No.) The eighth column is left blank for the convenience of any one who wishes to collate a Bible, which he can readily do by entering the letter A, B or C for each sheet.

The footnotes show the results of my collations of B C Bibles in all the cases which I have found approaching to either a pure B or a pure C type. I also give some results translated from Fry's tables. These I can only give on his authority, as he never names the whereabouts of the Bibles to which he refers.



No doubt they refer sometimes to Bibles which I have collated myself. Moreover, it is difficult to be sure of accuracy in giving at second hand results which have to be adapted to a completely different mode of presentment. However, I print them for whatever they are worth. All the other books referred to in the footnotes I have collated myself.

It is to be understood that the following Bibles all agree in the B reading, unless the contrary is expressed in the footnotes.

Referred to as

Three of my own	...	...	...	s26 (see page 10), s4, s5	
One lately on sale at Bull and Auvache; now acquired for the British Museum, where it bears the press-mark 3051 G10 (see page 10)	...	...	...		G10
A Bible belonging to the Syndicate of the Pitt Press, Cambridge (see page 3, <i>footnote</i> )	...	...	...		c2
A Bible belonging to Queen's College, Cambridge	...				c3
A Bible belonging to Christ's College, Cambridge, (see page 10)	...	...	...	...	c4
A Bible belonging to King's College, Cambridge	...				c5
A Bible belonging to the Rev. E. Conybeare, Rector of Barrington, near Cambridge	...	...	...		c6
A Bible belonging to Jesus College, Cambridge (see page 10)	...	...	...	...	c7
A Bible belonging to the Euing Collection at the Glasgow University (not the copy referred to on page 10, which is marked T, and which has a c text, but another copy) marked M	...	...	...	...	M

Also the following from Fry's Table 2: F3, F4, F6, F22, F25, F28, F31, F38, F39, F43, F44, F57, F62, F66, F67, F70.

It is a much rarer thing to find a Bible with a tolerably pure c text. As a rule, there is a considerable admixture of B leaves. However, it is to be understood that the following Bibles agree in the c reading, unless the contrary is expressed in the footnotes.

Two of my own Bibles	...	...	...	...	s27 and s6*
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\* If this paper should fall into the hands of any of the numerous visitors who come in summer to see my poor half ruined church at Corton, they may recognise in s6 the old Bible with brass bosses which generally lies on the reading desk, and forms a notable centre of attraction. Among the visitors whom I had the pleasure of welcoming last summer was Mrs. Henry Pott, a well-known writer in the Bacon-Shakespeare controversy. To her the edition—and especially that particular copy—had a peculiar and most unexpected interest, because she

The newly-acquired British Museum copy, 3051 g11

(see page 10) ... .. G11

Also the following from Fry's Table 2: F5, F29 (both in the Library of the Bible Society), F37.

I may add a list of a few other Bibles, which I have collated, but do not notice in the footnotes to the table on account of their mixed text.

British Museum 1276 L4 (with 1611 date, see page 10), 117 B sheets.

Lambeth Palace, a very mixed copy, 44 B sheets.

British Museum 3050 G2 (Fry's duplicate "Standard" copy, see page 96), 39 B sheets. The readings of this copy, and of its duplicate at the Bible Society, may be inferred from the column of Fry's "Reprints." They always differ from the reading there set down.

British Museum 3050 G3 (Fry's manufactured copy, see page 98); before it was tampered with it appears to have had 15 B sheets, now it has 17.

Euing collection at Glasgow, Bible marked T (with 1611 date, see page 10), 12 B sheets.

To these I must add a Bible belonging to Mr. J. R. Dore, which I have not seen, but which he kindly collated for me. It contains 16 B sheets. The two Oxford Bibles mentioned on page 10 I have seen, but I have not had an opportunity of thoroughly collating them.

I have only now to add that I shall be very pleased to hear from any one who can let me know of any other "She Bible" not mentioned in this paper.

WALTER E. SMITH.

*The Vicarage, Corton, Lowestoft.*

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believed it to be full of secret marks, both original and also added by hand, all somehow connected with the name of Francis Bacon. If Mrs. Pott would take in hand the curious phenomena of the duplicated sheets, I have no doubt she would find far more striking and esoteric reasons for them than the fire (see page 11), which has limited the excursions of my dull imagination !

		A	B	C	"Fry's" Reprints"	"Smith's" Posterior Sheets."	Column for Collation.
E3	...	saide ...	sayde ...	sayd ...	B	C <sup>1</sup>	
P2	...	layde...	laid ...	layd ...	B	C	
P3	...	saide ...	said ...	sayde ...	B	C <sup>2</sup>	
X2	...	be dismaid,	be dismayed;	bee dismaid,	C	?	
AA2	...	{ Jud. 15 page heading His foxe-tailles :	His fox-tailles.	His fox-tailles,	C	C <sup>3</sup>	
AA3	...	Jud. 19, 8, 3	said, ...	saide,	C	C <sup>4</sup>	
BB1	...	Ruth 1, 18m	†Hebr. strengthened her	†Hebr. strengthened	B	C <sup>5</sup>	
BB2	...	I Sam. 5, 5, 1	priests	priestes	B	B <sup>6</sup>	
BB3	...	I Sam. 2, 15, 2	priests	Priests	B	B <sup>7</sup>	
CC1	...	I Sam. 10, 1, 1	viall ...	viol ...	B	B	
CC2	...	I Sam. 15, 15, 1	sayde,	saide,	B	B	
CC3	...	I Sam. 14, 11, 3	sayd, ...	said, ...	B	B	
Dd1	...	I Sam. 26, 14, 4	sayd, ...	saide,	C	B	
DD2	...	I Sam. 24, 18m	†Hebr. shut	†Hebr. shut	C	B	
DD3	...	{ I Sam. 21, 9, 2 I Sam. 21, 5m	whome ally when this /	whom ally when	C	C <sup>8</sup>	

<sup>1</sup> F38=C.

<sup>2</sup> S6, G11, F37=B.

<sup>3</sup> C2=C.

<sup>4</sup> C2=C.

<sup>5</sup> S6=B.

<sup>6</sup> S6=B.

<sup>7</sup> S6=B.

<sup>8</sup> G11=B.



EE1	...	2 Sam. 7, 3, 1	sayde	...	...	...	said	...	...	...	saide	...	...	B
EE2	...	1 Sam. 31, 1, 4	/from	...	...	...	/fro	...	...	...	/the	...	...	B
EE3	...	2 Sam. 1, 1, 9	daies in 3ik=	...	...	...	daies /	...	...	...	daies /	...	...	B
FF1	...	2 Sam. 9, 4, 1	saide	...	...	...	said	...	...	...	sayd	...	...	C*
FF3	...	2 Sam. 13, 12m	*Leuit. /	...	...	...	*Leuit. 18 /	...	...	...	*Leu. 18. 9	...	...	C§
GG3	...	2 Sam. 20, 4m	†Hebr. /	...	...	...	†Hebr. call /	...	...	...	†Hebr. call. /	...	...	C
HH1	...	1 Kings 8, 31m	/he require /	...	...	...	/he require an /	...	...	...	/require an /	...	...	B <sup>9</sup>
HH2	...	1 Kings 2, 11, 3	raigned bee	...	...	...	reigned be	...	...	...	raigned be	...	...	B <sup>10</sup>
HH3	...	1 Kings 3, 11m	†Hebr. ma- /	...	...	...	†Hebr. many /	...	...	...	†Hebr. ma- /	...	...	B <sup>11</sup>
II1	...	1 Kings 15, 29, 2	the house. 3e= /	...	...	...	the house of /	...	...	...	ye house of 3e= /	...	...	B
II2	...	1 Kings 10, 7, 4	wisedom	...	...	...	wisdom	...	...	...	wisdom	...	...	B
II3	...	1 Kings 12, 18m	/selfe. /	...	...	...	/ned himselfe. /	...	...	...	/ned himself. /	...	...	B <sup>12</sup>
KK2	...	1 Kings 18, 27, 2	saide,	...	...	...	sayde,	...	...	...	said,	...	...	C <sup>13</sup>
KK3	...	1 Kings 19, 4, 5	sayd, ...	...	...	...	said, ...	...	...	...	saide,	...	...	B <sup>14</sup>
LL1	...	2 Kings 10, 9, 3	ye be...	...	...	...	ye bee	...	...	...	ye be	...	...	B <sup>15</sup>
LL2	...	2 Kings 8, 17, 2	be when be	...	...	...	bee when bee	...	...	...	bee when be	...	...	B <sup>16</sup>
LL3	...	2 Kings 5, 12, 4	be turned, and /	...	...	...	bee returned, /	...	...	...	bee turned, /	...	...	C
MM1	...	2 Kings 11, 6, 1	shall be	...	...	...	shal be	...	...	...	shalbe	...	...	C
MM2	...	2 Kings 13, 1, 2	the /	...	...	...	son /	...	...	...	3oasb /	...	...	B

\* C2=A. § C2=A. <sup>9</sup> S6=B. <sup>10</sup> S6=B. <sup>11</sup> S6=B.  
<sup>12</sup> S4, S5, G10, C4, C5, C6, M; F3, F6, F22, F31, F38, F39, F43, F45, F57, F62, F66, F70=C: G11=B,  
<sup>13</sup> F66=C. <sup>14</sup> F66=C. <sup>15</sup> C3=C.  
<sup>16</sup> S26, S4, C2, C3, C7, M, F4, F22, F25, F28, F38, F44, F57, F66=C.

		A	B	C	"Fry's Reprints"	Smith's "Posterior" Sheets.	Column for Collation.
MM3	2 Kings 14, 20, 3 ...	city ...	city ...	City ...	...	B	
NN1	{ 2 Kings 19, 15, 1 ... 2 Kings 19, 18, 2 ...	before work ...	vnto ... worke ...	before worke ...	... }	B	
NN2	2 Kings 20, 17, 3 ...	layde ...	layd ...	laide ...	...	B	
NN3	2 Kings 22, 14, 6 ...	: now sbe	, now sbe	, now sbee ...	...	C	
OO1	1 Chron. 3, 10m ...	/ 43. & 15. 8 /	/ 43. and 15. /	/ 43. and /	...	B	
OO2	{ 1 Chron. 4, 36, 2 ... 1 Chron. 4, 39, 3 ...	Jesobaiab flocks.	Jesobaiab flocks.	Jesobaiab, flocks.	... }	C	
OO3	1 Chron. 7, 40, 6 ...	twen= /	twentie /	twenty /	...	B <sup>17</sup>	
PP1	1 Chron. 12, 29m ...	†Heb. a /	†Heb. a mul- /	†Hebr. a /	...	C <sup>18</sup>	
PP2	1 Chron. 15, 17m ...	*Vers. 44.	*Ver. 44	*Verse 44.	...	C <sup>19</sup>	
PP3	1 Chron. 17, 24, 4 ...	and / ...	let / ...	tbe / ...	...	C <sup>20</sup>	
QQ1	1 Chron. 26, 14m ...	/ ver. 1. /	/ ah, ver. 1. /	/ ah, verse 1. /	...	C	
QQ2	1 Chron. 28, 4m ...	/ Gen. 49. 8. /	/ *Gen. 49. /	/ Gene. 49. /	...	C	
QQ3	1 Chron. 29, 15m ...	/ *Psal. 39. 12 /	/ *Psa. 39. 12 /	/ *Psal. 39. /	...	C	
RR1	2 Chron. 18, 24, 1 ...	sayd, Jsebold,	sayde, Jsebolde,	sayde, Jsebold,	...	B	
RR2	2 Chron. 9, 15, 3 ...	gold went to /	golde went /	golden went /	...	B	

<sup>17</sup> F31=C.


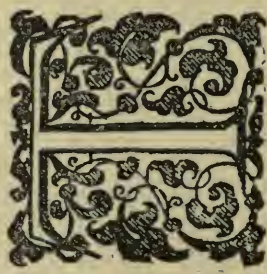

<sup>18</sup> G11=B.

<sup>19</sup> G11=B.

<sup>20</sup> G11=B.





		A	B	C	"Fry's Reprints"	"Smith's Posterior Sheets."	Column for Collation.
AAA3	Job 28 ... page heading	wisdom. ... .. 	wisdom. ... .. 	Wisdom. ... .. 	C	C	
BBB1	Job 38 ... Initial	...	...	...	C	22	
BBB2	{ Job 39, 5, 1 } Job 39, 13, 2	wild ... peacocks, ... † <i>Heb. iustice</i> /	wild ... peacocks, ... † <i>Hebr. in-</i> /	wilde ... peacocks, ... † <i>Heb. in-</i> /	B	C <sup>23</sup>	
CCC1	Psal. 17, 1m	...	...	...	B	C	
CCC2	Psal. 22, 12, 1	bulles	bulls	bulis	B	C	
CCC3	Psal. 24, 8, 1	tbis king	tbe king	tbis king	B	P <sup>24</sup>	
DDD1	Psal. 38, 16, 1	me, least	mee, least	mee, lest	C	C	
DDD2	Psal. 43, 2, 1	strength, /	my /	tbe /	C	C	
DDD3	Psal. 46, 4, 2	citie	City	Citie	C	C	
EEE1	Psal. 65, 4, 3	: we /	: we sbalbe /	: we shall be /	...	...	

<sup>22</sup> The initial in the C column is reported by Fry as the mark of a "reprint," which he has only met with once, *i.e.*, in his "No. 10." It may be seen inserted in the beginning of his "No. 3," at the Bible Society.

<sup>23</sup> F67=C.

<sup>24</sup> The initial I, Psalm 26 (B), points to B as posterior; collation rather suggests C.



	A	B	C	Fry's "Reprints"	Smith's "Posterior" Sheets.	Column for Collation.
MM1 ...	Isai. 1, 19, 1 ...	vee be ...	ve be ...	...	...	C
MM2 ...	Isai. 3, 2, m ...	†Hebr. A ...	†Hebr. A ...	...	...	C
MM3 ...	Isai. 6, 7, 1 ...	laide ...	layd ...	...	...	C
NN1 ...	Isai. 14, 20m ...	/28. and 109 /	/28. & 109 /	...	...	C <sup>28</sup>
NN2 ...	Isai. 17, 11m ...	Or, remo-	Or, remo-	...	...	B <sup>29</sup>
NN3 ...	{ Isai. 23, 12, 4 Isai. 25, 9, 1 ...	baue ... sbalbe ...	take ... sbalbe ...	...	...	C <sup>30</sup>
OO1 ...	Isai. 30, 26, 2 ...	sbalbe ...	sbal be ...	...	...	C <sup>31</sup>
PP1 ...	Isai. 43, 24m ...	/or, abundant- /	/or, abundant- /	...	...	C
PP2 ...	Isai. 46, 1, 6 ...	/a burden ...	/wearie ...	...	...	C
PP3 ...	Isai. 48, 21, 1 & 2...	be . . . be ...	be . . . bee...	...	...	C
QQ1 ...	Isai. 59, 7, 4 ...	destruction...	destructiõ ...	...	...	C
QQ2 ...	Isai. 60, 6, 5 ...	forth the praises	foorth the praises	...	...	C
RR1 ...	Jer. 5, 6, 5 ...	sbalbe ...	sball be ...	...	...	C
RR2 ...	{ Jer. 6, 18, 1 Jer. 6, 17, 3 ...	ve ... the wil ...	vee ... the will ...	...	...	C
RR3 ...	Jer. 8, 15m ...	*Chap. 14 16	*Chap. 14. 16.	...	...	C <sup>32</sup>

<sup>28</sup> F57=C. <sup>29</sup> F25, F57=C. <sup>30</sup> F25, F57=C. <sup>31</sup> F25=C.

<sup>32</sup> Fry does not recognise any distinction between A and B; nor does there seem to be any difference between them, except the displaced figure noted under B. It is certainly difficult to believe that the two can have been set up independently. S27 and G11 have here the B reading. Of Fry's copies it appears that 4, 25, 28, 31, 38, 44 and 67 had C, and his 5, 29 and 37B.






TTT1	...	...	†Heb. sons /	...	...	†Heb. sons /	...	...	†Hebr. / sonnes of the Hebr. the	...	C
TTT2	...	...	†Heb. the	...	...	†Hebr. the	...	...	...	...	C
TTT3	...	...	†Hebr. ende and expecta- /	...	...	†Hebr. end and expecta- /	...	...	†Hebr. end and expecta- /	...	C
VVV1	...	...	co- /	...	...	coue- /	...	...	Coue- /	...	C
VVV2	...	...	ve . . . all	...	...	vee . . . all	...	...	vee . . . al	...	B
VVV3	...	...	/*Chap. 15. 2 /	...	...	/*Chap. 15. 2 /	...	...	/*Chap. 15. /	...	B
XXX1	...	...	sayd . . Tbe /	...	...	sayd . . . Tbe /	...	...	sayd . . . bim, /	...	B
XXX2	...	...	sayth /	...	...	sayth tbe /	...	...	sayth tbe /	...	B
XXX3	...	...	*Gen. 19. 25. chap. 50	...	...	*Gen. 19. 25. cha. 50.	...	...	*Gene. 19. 25. cha. 50	...	B
VVV1	...	...	/ flands . . . dwell	...	...	/ flands . . . dwell	...	...	/ lands . . . dwell...	...	C <sup>33</sup>
VVV2	...	...	thee . . . me	...	...	the . . . me	...	...	the . . . mee	...	B
VVV3	...	...	: bee will visit	...	...	: be will visite	...	...	: bee will visite	...	B
ZZZ1	...	...	*Chap. 33. 7 /	...	...	*Chap. 33. 7 /	...	...	*Chap. 33. / 7.	...	B
ZZZ2	...	...	sayd; Get yee	...	...	sayd; Get ye	...	...	sayd; Get yee	...	B
ZZZ3	...	...	bee sayde	...	...	be said	...	...	bee said	...	B

<sup>33</sup> F67=C.

<sup>31</sup> F67=C.

<sup>35</sup> F67=C.

<sup>36</sup> F67=C.

		A	B	C	Fry's "Reprints."	Smith's "Posterior Sheet."	Column for Collation.
IIII6 ...	I Esdras, V initial				B <sup>37</sup>		
SSSS3 ...	{ Page heading Ecclus. 16, 27, 4	Chap. xvij ... weary,	Chap. xVij ... weary,	Chap xvij ... weary,	C <sup>38</sup>		
XXXXX2	Baruch 4, 2m	light there- / ...	light there- / ...	light thereof / ...	C <sup>39</sup>		
New Testament.							
S1 ...	Page heading	Paul's weapons,	same as A	Ministers weapons. <sup>40</sup>			
V3 ...	I Tim. 2, 2, 2	we	same as A	wec			

<sup>37</sup> I do not think this is properly a reprint at all; the only point of difference between B and C is the initial represented above. C2, M, F22, F38, F39, F43, F44, F57, F62, F66 and F70=C: S6, F37=B.

<sup>38</sup> In this sheet also the only distinction between B and C consists in the extraordinary typographical vagary, noted in col. B. I do not suppose it is a true reprint. Perhaps the great V was put in at first because one of the proper size was not disengaged, and when one was to be had the press may have been stopped to substitute one of proper size. The copies are a good deal mixed, C2, C5, M, F3, F22, F31, F38, F39, F57 and F67 reading C, whilst S6, G11, F5, F29 and F37=B.

<sup>39</sup> C is a very rare reprint which Fry has only found in two copies; one of these is the British Museum copy, which once belonged to Fry, 3050 g3. The other is inserted in "No. 3" at the Bible Society.

<sup>40</sup> It is a very curious circumstance, that in the New Testament there are two sheets (S1 and V3) in which most of the B Bibles agree throughout with A. Some of the C Bibles have varying sheets as noted in the C column. It is hardly conceivable that A and B were set up separately, without a single variation occurring, and yet it is very strange that there should have been such a great superabundance of these particular sheets struck. One is driven to imagine some misunderstanding between the printers which might have caused double the proper complement to be struck off. I have not had opportunity of taking complete collations of these two sheets: of my own Bibles, the three B Bibles all have the A sheets, whilst my two C Bibles each have one A and one C. Of Fry's sixteen strongly B Bibles, three only have each of the C sheets, and of his three strongly C Bibles, one has the A sheet in S1 and two have it in V3.

# ADDENDA,

Whilst this article was passing through the press I have met with several Bibles that I had not seen before: some to be added to the list on page 10 of Bibles with a joint title.

## 1611.

(1) Fry's "No. 2" in the library of the Bible Society (see *Library*, page 96) has the printed title 1611; he says "This is my standard copy of the second issue. The title is the wood-engraved one, very rare. I know of but two in England, but mine, one in the British Museum (*i.e.*, 1276 14) and one in St. John's, Cambridge." The follower is the second of those noted on page 9. Text, a mixture of B and C.

(2) The above mentioned Bible at St. John's, Cambridge. Though I made special enquiries after this copy a year ago, I could not hear of it. However, it is there now, and the Rev. E. Conybeare has most kindly examined it for me. He reports it to be a fine copy in perfect condition. Title 1611 undoubtedly unaltered. Follower No. 2. The readings are of an extremely pure C type.

## 1613.

(1) Fry's "No. 3," Bible Society. He says "This is a copy of the first edition, second issue, with reprints, published with the 1613 title and follower." It has a purely C text. The follower to title is No. 3 (page 9). It has several extremely rare sheets taken from other copies, inserted at the beginning.

(2) Fry's No. 29 (Bible Society) a C Bible, has 1613 title, follower No. 2.

(3) A book which has belonged to the Bible Society for many years, but which somehow escaped my enquiries on a former visit (Press mark B 9 6). Title 1613, follower No. 3.

The following are three other copies which I have recently examined, all wanting the first title:—

(1) Fry's No. 5 at the Bible Society. This is a purely C Bible. He writes, "This is very valuable standard copy, the one I have used in all my comparisons."

Also by the courtesy of the booksellers to whom they belong:—

(2) Fry's "No. 45" (H. Sotheran), a fine B Bible.

(3) A mixed BC copy, like that at Lambeth Palace, sent me by Messrs. Bull and Auvache.

## ERRATUM.

The statement on page 102 is incorrect. See the footnotes to the table.



## A University Librarian 250 Years ago.

THE subjoined statement may be read with some interest by librarians of the present day. It sets forth the agreement made between the Aberdeen Town Council and Mr. Robert Downie with regard to his duties and emoluments as librarian of Marischal College and University (Aberdeen), in 1632. The stipulation with regard to the "tables and indices" of the books is particularly interesting.

"The said Mr. Robert sall hold the dore of the Librarie patent and oppin four dayes of the weeke the whole yeir alsweill in tyme of vaikance as at vther times To wit, Monon-day, Wedinsday, Fridday and Saturday everie ane of these dayes in Sommer frome Sevin hors till elewin in the foirnoone and twa till fywe in the eftirnoone And in the winter from nyne till twelff in the foirnoone, and from twa till foure hors in the eftirnoone. And Siclyik he sall admitt no schollar to be ane ordinar Student within the said librarie without ane subscriwit warrand frome the Magistrattis and counsall of Aberdene And these quha salbe deputt be thame. Quhilks students at thair entrie to the said Librarie sall giwe thair aithes that they sall not tak out ane book furth thairof nather sall they blott any booke nor teare the leaff of ane booke nor fold the leaf of ane buik quhairin gife thay contravene they sall pay the triple of the price of the buik . . . Item he sall not lend furth ane buik to any man of quhat estate or degrie soewir he be Item he sall make tables and indices of the haill buiks within the said librarie ordine alphabetico of ewerie science be thame selffis for the commodious vse of the saidis schollars Item he sall keip the saids buiks frie from dust and corruptionn, and sall have a fyre for that effect as necessitie requyres. Item he sall subject himselff to all these conditiounes and quhatsoewir els salbe thocht fittinge be the counsall of Aberdeine for the tyme to be sett doune heirefter for the weill of the saids students buiks and Bibliothek For the quhilks caussis the saids Prouest Baillies and Counsall of the said burt Bindis and obleissis thame and thair successors in tyme comeing To thankfullie content pey and delywer to the said Mr. Robert Downye yeirlye and ilk yeire during all the dayes of his lyftime, The soume of Sex hundreth merks money foirsaid. . ."

A. W. ROBERTSON.

## THE LIBRARY CHRONICLE.

### Prize Essay.

THE Editor again offers a Prize of £10, and has asked the Council of the Library Association to name a subject for the Essay. The subject chosen is "THE ORIGIN AND PROGRESS OF THE PUBLIC LIBRARY MOVEMENT," and it is intended that if found suitable the successful essay shall form the first chapter of the LIBRARY MANUAL in course of preparation by the Association.

Essays must not exceed 5,000 words, must be clearly written or typed on one side of the paper only, signed with a motto, enclosed in an envelope marked "Prize Essay" and sent to the Editor of *The Library*, not later than June 31st. The author's name should be enclosed in a separate envelope endorsed with his motto, and sent under cover to the Editor.

### The Responsibility of Guarantors.

A case involving the legal responsibilities of guarantors has recently been decided in favour of the Battersea Commissioners, and may be of interest to the directors of lending libraries under the Public Libraries Acts.

A book having been mutilated and offered for sale by a member of the family of the borrower to whom it had been issued, and the borrower being unable or unwilling to replace it when required to do so, application was made to the guarantor for the value of the work. He, however, repudiated his responsibility, and professed to regard the undertaking he had signed as a mere matter of form. Proceedings were thereupon taken by direction of the Commissioners in the Wandsworth County Court, and as the defendant did not appear, judgment went against him by default, and the order of the court being disregarded, execution was ultimately issued against his goods. This he evaded by representing that the goods were the property of another person, and the commissioners at once took out a judgment summons against him, which was heard before the judge on the 26th of November, when the defendant was sentenced to ten days' imprisonment in default of payment within a month.

Although no attempt was made to dispute the claim, the evidence on which it was based was carefully examined by the Registrar, who found no difficulty in deciding in favour of the Commissioners.

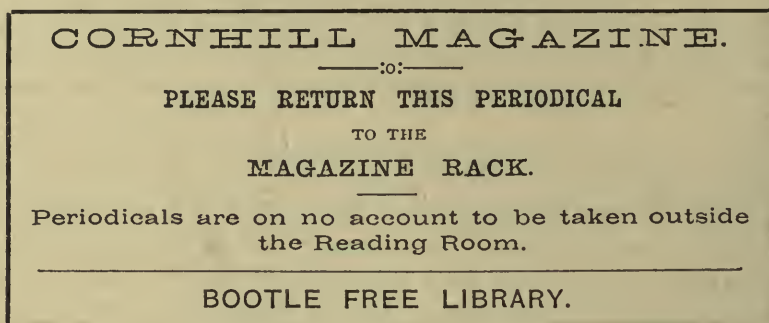
### Obituary.

We regret to record the death of Mr. E. Neville, Librarian of the Darwen Public Library. When the library passed into the hands of the Corporation on January 1st, Mr. Neville tendered his resignation and expressed a wish to be relieved at the end of February. The Library Committee regretfully accepted his resignation and generously granted him a sum equal to one year's salary in recognition of his services as Librarian for nineteen years. It is a singular and melancholy coincidence that he should die on the *last day of February* after an illness of one week, having been seized with the prevailing influenza and subsequently with bronchitis.

He was a member of the Library Association from the commencement and was much respected. He was seventy-four years of age.

## Practical Librarianship.

In many libraries a reader experiences difficulty in finding the periodicals he may require. To lessen as much as possible this evil, I have adopted the plan of having a notice marked in stamped gilt letters in the very centre of the reading case; for magazines thus :—

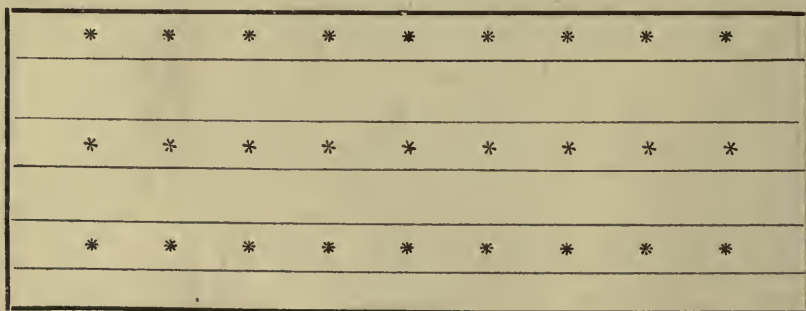


For newspapers the notice is varied thus :

“Please do not remove this paper from this table.”

“Papers are on no account to be taken outside the Reading Room.”

The magazine rack is after the Liverpool pattern, viz., a kind of enlarged toast-rack with partitions made of brass rods. The magazine cases are put in edgewise three or four between two partitions, and as the name of each magazine is legibly printed along the back of its case there is no difficulty in finding the periodical required. For the convenience of readers nearly all trade weeklies and presented papers are arranged along three wall rails and held by clips (\*) thus :



This allows the title of each paper to be seen. The top rail is close to the wall, the second rail a little in advance, and the bottom rail still more forward. The appearance of this newspaper rack, which is *not* registered or patented, is quite neat and even pleasing. The advantages of such a rack will be apparent to all librarians. Readers generally return the paper to its place in the rack after reading. Before adopting these arrangements the tables used always to present an untidy appearance, and papers were often hidden out of sight or held under the elbows of readers when wanted by others. Now all is orderly and neat.

JOHN J. OGLE.



## Record of Bibliography and Library Literature.

Annals of Scottish Printing from the Introduction of the Art in 1507 to the beginning of the Seventeenth Century. By Robert Dickson, L.R.C.S.E., and John Philip Edmond. Cambridge: Macmillan and Bowes, 1890. 8vo, pp. xv., 530.

Between the years 1876 and 1878 Dr. Dickson contributed to the *Printers' Register* a series of articles on the subject of early Scottish typography. The author's ill-health unfortunately brought the series to a premature close, and has ever since been a sad hindrance in the way of any other laborious work. But in Mr. J. P. Edmond, whose monograph on the Aberdeen printers at once took a high place in typographical literature, Dr. Dickson has found a kindred spirit to whom he could fearlessly hand over all his materials, published and unpublished, for the history of the early Scottish printers. Thus the first twenty chapters of this work, which bring the narrative down to the close of the career of Robert Lekpreuik, are in the main the work of Dr. Dickson, edited and brought up to date by Mr. Edmond; while for Chapters XXI.-XXXVIII. (Thomas Bassandyne to Robert Charteris) Mr. Edmond takes the sole responsibility. In a subject by no means free from doubtful and disputed points collaboration is necessarily difficult, but save on the question of the identity of John Skot of London (1521-1537), with John Scot of Edinburgh (1539-1571), which in one paragraph is rather summarily dismissed and in the next regarded with some favour, we have not observed that the necessities of compromise have caused Dr. Dickson and Mr. Edmond to give forth any uncertain sound. They may be congratulated, indeed, alike on their subject, on the condition in which they found it, and on the excellence of their own work. A minute history of the first century of printing in France or Italy would be a work of almost impossible magnitude, but the Scottish printers between 1507 and 1601 numbered scarcely more than a dozen in all, and it has, therefore, been possible for their historians to enrich their chronicle with a wealth of detail scarcely, if at all, inferior to that with which Mr. Blades has illustrated the life and works of our own Caxton. Again, the subject until almost exactly a century ago was virgin soil, and even since then few explorers have endeavoured to treat it as a whole. It was with the discovery by George Chalmers of James IV.'s patent to Andrew Myllar and Walter Chepman—a discovery which he communicated to an antiquarian society in 1791—that the history of Scottish printing first touched solid ground. James IV. was a patron of learning and a lover of fine books, but a clause in the patent points to his action in the matter having been taken at the instance of the Bishop of Aberdeen, William Elphinstone. "It is divisit and thocht expedient," this clause recites, "be us and our consall that in tyme cuming mess bukis, efter our awin Scottis use, and with legendis of Scottis sanctis, as is now gaderit and ekit be ane Reverend Fader in God, and our traist consalour Williame bischope, of Abirdene and atheris, be usit generally within al our Realme allsone as the samme may be imprentit and providit." Of the two recipients of this patent Walter Chepman, like Caxton, was a well-to-do merchant, who only engaged in printing late in life. As to his partner, Andrew Myllar, within the last twenty years the patience and luck of M. Claudin, a French bibliographer, have greatly increased our information. In 1867 M. Claudin, with the help of Dr. David Laing, discovered an *Expositio Sequentiarum* bearing Myllar's

device and the date 1506, and printed with the type of Laurence Hostingue of Rouen. After nine years' research he was again rewarded with the discovery of another work (the *Multorum vocabulorum equiuocorum interpretatio* of Joannes de Garlandia), printed by Myllar a year earlier. Thus, when the two partners set up together at the Southgate in Aberdeen, Chepman probably contributed most of the capital and Myllar the practical knowledge of the art. Of the four volumes of the Aberdeen Breviary which they were specially engaged to print we know that the first was finished on Feb. 13th, 1509-10, and the second on June 4th. Of this precious work four copies exist; but the other productions of their press are only represented by a single volume of 110 leaves (discovered in 1785), containing a number of small pamphlets, mostly fragmentary, of which those of *The Golden Targe*, *The Maying and Disport of Chaucer*, and the *Flyting of Dunbar and Kennedy* are among the most important. The only date attached to any of these pieces is 1508, and after the completion of the Aberdeen Breviary the partnership of Myllar and Chepman appears to have come to an end, and, with the exception of a John Story who about 1520 printed a *Compassio beate Marie* (of which a fragment is bound up with one of the copies of the Breviary), Scotland was for many years again without a printer. Thomas Davidson, who rescued her from this reproach, in his editions of the *New Acts and Constitutionis of Parliament* (1540) and of Bellenden's *Hystory and Croniklis of Scotland* showed himself a worthy follower of the best traditions of his art. From Davidson onwards the succession of Scotch printers is unbroken, and Dr. Dickson and Mr. Edmond trace its history in great detail in the works of Scot and Lekpreuik, Bassandyne, Arbuthnot and Ross, Henry Charteris, Thomas Vautrollier, the luckless Robert Waldegrave, Robert Smyth, and Robert Charteris. Of the manner in which our two authors have executed their task it is difficult to speak too highly. As a rule three chapters are devoted to each printer, the first dealing with his biography, the second with his dated works, and the third with those *sine anno*. Of the earliest books, such as the Aberdeen Breviary, the collations frequently occupy several pages, and all the descriptions are alike full and scholarly in form. Legal documents are quoted at length, and the most important title-pages, printer's devices and types reproduced in facsimile. The early Scottish printers have waited long for their historian, but in the work of Dr. Dickson and Mr. Edmond their enforced patience has been richly rewarded.

We hope shortly to present our readers with a more extended account of this notable book illustrated by a few examples of the many figures that adorn it.

A Catalogue of some of the Printed Books and Manuscripts at St. Dunstan's, Regent's Park, and Aldenham House, Herts: Collected by Henry Hucks Gibbs. [Privately printed.] London, 1888, 4to, pp. 199, 3.

Mr. Gibbs has recently distributed to his friends and fellow members of the Roxburghe Club, copies of the very handsomely printed catalogue of the libraries at St. Dunstan's, Regent's Park and at Aldenham House. Mr. Gibbs's collections are rich in Bibles and Liturgies and in works relating to Charles I. They contain also a goodly array of first editions of English classics, which have been wisely supplemented by the reprints of Prof. Arber, Dr. Grosart and other industrious editors. As the catalogue is privately printed we have no right to subject it to minute criticism. We may note, however, that while each individual title appears to have been written with considerable care, for lack of a little editing the inconsistency



of the headings is quite glaring. Thus we have *Augustinus* (*Sctus*) followed by *Augustinus* and again by *Augustine* (*St.*); *Daniel* and *Danyel*; *Decker* and *Dekker*; *Donne*, *John*, and *Donne*, *Dr. John* (*Dean of St. Paul's*), to the no slight puzzlement of the reader. Again the evils of fancy headings are strikingly exemplified by the treatment of Southey's reprint of Caxton's edition of Sir Thomas Malory's *Morte d'Arthur*. This is entered not under *Malory* nor yet under *Arthur*, but in the body of the catalogue under *Kyng Arthur*, and again (the cataloguer being obviously unable to trace its whereabouts) in the supplement under *Morte d'Arthur*. So much for "common-sense" headings! But the catalogue, though damaged by the lack of a revision which could easily have been made in a couple of hours, offers some very interesting reading, and the colophon shows Mr. Gibbs as so valiant a rider of the best of all hobbies that we cannot refrain from quoting it:—

"This catalogue was finished at Aldenham on the thirtieth day of November, in the year of Our Lord eighteen hundred and eighty-eight. But 'of making many books there is no end,' saith the preacher (Eccl. xii. 12); and there is yet room for more on its pages. Like Alexander Barclay's 'firste fole of all the hole navy,' in his *Shyp of Fols* (1509)—

" 'Styll am I besy bokes assemblynge,  
For to have plenty it is a pleasaunt thyng  
In my conceyt, and to have them ay in honde.' "

This is the true spirit of the book-lover, which regards a catalogue not as the terminus but as the first milestone of a collection.

"The Scottish Bibliographical Society" has been successfully established. The objects of the Society are (1) the discussion and elucidation of questions connected with books, more especially Scottish; (2) the compilation of special lists with a view to the formation of a complete Scottish bibliography; (3) the noting of books printed in or relating to Scotland which are not to be found in the Edinburgh Public Libraries; (4) the exhibition of rare or remarkable books, printed or in manuscript; (5) the issue of papers, reprints and facsimiles. The Secretary is Mr. George P. Johnston, 33, George Street, Edinburgh.

## The Bodleian Library.

During the past term the Bodleian has been prominently before the public. In accordance with a recent statute, questions were asked of the Curators of the Library on the subject of their Annual Report to Convocation. The answers were delivered in Convocation on January 28th, and gave rise to a somewhat acrimonious debate. The questions related to (1) the expenditure on (a) binding, (b) the purchase of second-hand books, (c) new books, (d) books which the Taylor Institution might purchase, thereby relieving the Bodleian; (2) the system by which boys are largely employed in the Library; (3) the extent to which the Curators personally investigate the state of the Library, as they are statutorily bound to do. On January 28th the official answers of the Curators were read out, in which they maintained that as much was done, in regard to the matters complained of, as it was reasonable to do. The debate began by Mr. Mowat, a Curator, expressing his belief that further enquiry would lead to a modification of the official answers. He ended by reading out a statement on the part of Mr. Bywater, who was absent through illness. In this paper Mr. Bywater "speaking as a Curator and with a full sense of the responsibility" he was incurring, opposed his own know-



ledge of the circumstances to the details of the replies. This paper has recently been printed and widely circulated in Oxford. The debate was continued on the side of the questioners by Professors Nettleship and Pelham, Mr. Grose and the Junior Proctor, and on the side of the Curators by the Provost of Oriel, Prof. Max Müller, and the Librarian, who, according to the *Times* report, described his opponents as a "miserable cabal." Prof. Nettleship described the proportion of money spent on the acquisition of books to that spent on binding as in the Bodleian two to one, and in the British Museum three to one. The subsequent numbers of the *Oxford Magazine* show that the excitement caused by this debate has not yet subsided, and that a new question of interest has been started.

The Bodleian possesses over one hundred separate collections of manuscripts, and a memorial seems to have been sent to the Curators, requesting that some steps may be taken to issue a summary account, with an index, of all those MSS. which are not already fully catalogued in print, pending the completion of the existing schemes of cataloguing. This will be regarded with favour by every one who has had practical experience of the Bodleian. A recent paper by Mr. Hardy in the *Journal of Philology* and a letter from Dr. Moore in the *Academy* of March 8th urge the need of such a summary. The question will no doubt be settled in the ensuing summer term, when the Annual Report on the Library may also be expected.

### Library Notes and News.

*The Editor earnestly requests that librarians and others will send to him early and accurate information as to all local Library doings. The briefest record of facts and dates is all that is required, and all contributions used will be paid for.*

*In course of time the "Library Notes and News" will become of the utmost value to the historian of the Free Library movement, and it is therefore of the highest importance that every paragraph should be vouched for by local knowledge.*

BARNSELY.—It is proposed that the new public library shall receive the name of the "Harvey Free Public Library." The following subscriptions to the library fund have been given: Mr. T. F. C. V. Wentworth, £250; Earl Compton, £105; Mr. W. Harvey, £100; Alderman Wood, £50; Alderman Marsden, £50.

BELFAST.—At the recent Annual Meeting of the Belfast Library and Society for Promoting Knowledge, known as the "Linen Hall Library," the probable purchase of the site of the Linen Hall, and the consequent removal of the Library, was the subject of remark in the report. The institution continues in a most satisfactory condition.

BILSTON.—It seems that the Public Library Committee have a standing resolution that no book on politics shall be admitted into the library. This curious order was mentioned recently, when a work entitled *The Present State of Indian Politics* was offered.

BIRMINGHAM.—The plans for the proposed branch public libraries for Rotten Park and Duddleston and Nechells Wards have been approved by the Public Libraries Committee. The site of the former is at the junction of Spring Hill with Icknield Street, and the plans selected are those of Messrs. Martin and Chamberlain. The building will be in the

so-called English Renaissance style of red brick and terra-cotta. There will be a commodious reading room on the ground floor, but the peculiarities of the site have rendered the introduction of a gallery necessary for the accommodation of the lending department. There will also be a librarian's room, and the usual lavatories, &c., and the building, which will cost between £3,000 and £4,000, will be surmounted with a handsome tower. Messrs. Cossins and Peacock are the architects for the Duddeston site, situated at the corner of Saltley Road. This design is also of the English Renaissance, and the building will have a lofty ornamental clock tower. The accommodation will be somewhat similar to that in the Spring Hill Library, but an annexe on the ground floor for the lending department will take the place of the gallery in the former building. The estimated cost is about £3,500.

BRADFORD ART MUSEUM.—The corporation have decided to light the museum and art gallery with the electric light.

BRECHIN.—The poll on the public library question was taken on March 1st, resulting in 620 votes for the adoption of the Acts and 459 against—a majority of 161 in favour.

CAMBRIDGE.—On March 13th the Cambridge University Congregation passed graces for devoting £5,000 to the purchase of part of Sir T. Phillips's famous collection of manuscripts, and appointing Dr. Luard, Dr. Cunningham, Professor Mayor, Professor Creighton, Mr. Aldis Wright, and others, to help the Library Syndicate in the selection of those to be purchased. The British Museum and the Bodleian Library have also arranged to secure some of the Biddefield MSS. The death is announced of Dr. Schiller-Szinessy, reader in Rabbinic literature in the University, who was formerly for many years employed on a catalogue of the Hebrew manuscripts in the University library.

DARWEN.—The Free Public Library here, which was the first in the kingdom to be established under the Act by a Local Board, was transferred to the Corporation on the 1st January last. This was brought about mainly by the passing of the Bill last year enabling local authorities to collect the library rate with, and *as part of*, the Poor Rate. The library was previously managed by nine commissioners elected by the ratepayers. Three of the old commissioners have been appointed by the Corporation to act on the Library Committee, viz., Fred. G. Hindle, J. J. Riley and Nathaniel Jepson, the latter being appointed *vice-chairman*, the Mayor being the chairman. The penny rate realizes about £400 per annum, and the number of volumes in the library is about 12,800.

EDINBURGH.—Mr. Duncan MacLachlan, bookseller, has been appointed sub-librarian of the Edinburgh Public Library. The appointment was criticised in *Truth* of March 6th.

HANDSWORTH.—A Local Government Board Inquiry was held on February 25th, respecting an application of the Local Board for powers to borrow £2,000 for the purpose of extending the public library. The Acts were adopted in 1876, and from that date up to the present the movement has been most popular in the district.

HASTINGS.—At the town's meeting held on February 20th, a large majority voted against the adoption of the Public Libraries Acts. A poll of the ratepayers was at once demanded.

HORWICH, LANCASHIRE.—The Lancashire and Yorkshire Railway Mechanics' Institute, at Horwich, which is largely subsidised by the railway company, was opened about a year ago, and already possesses an



extensive and admirable library. Employés of the company are admitted to all the advantages of the Institute on the following terms : those in receipt of wages under 24s. a week, 1½d. a week ; those getting from 24s. to 60s. a week, 2d. a week ; those receiving 60s. and over, 3d. a week. Non-employees are enrolled at higher rates.

LIVERPOOL.—The *Liverpool Courier* (February 19th) says : “ Our city librarian, Mr. Peter Cowell, whose recent discourse on the history of the printed book afforded so much gratification to those who heard it, has been giving a Saturday afternoon informal ‘talk’ at the library to a number of teachers and others who were disappointed at the non-delivery of his second public lecture. A good array of the bibliographical treasures of the library was spread out for inspection and the assembled company were charmed with the manner in which Mr. Cowell made these old tomes speak again of the part they had played in the development of English literary culture.

Professor Kuno Meyer, in the *Liverpool Mercury*, advocates the formation of a Celtic Library at the Liverpool University College. Celtic studies have for some years past been part of the evening courses at the College. Liverpool, as is well known, is a great centre of the Celtic people, and he thinks that the college “ should possess every facility for the scientific study of Celtic language and literature. If such a library were founded, it would be possible for the simplest student to reach at first hand the genuine sources of the whole history of Wales and of Ireland, their poetry, their politics, and their church.”

The resignation of Mr. Alfred Wakefield, librarian of the Liverpool (Lyceum) Library, is announced.

LONDON : BRITISH MUSEUM.—The new regulations at the British Museum Library, which came into force some months ago, whereby recent novels are withheld from readers, and manuscripts and newspaper files are to be inspected in special rooms, have, strangely enough, had little effect upon the number of readers in the great circular reading-room. The number of these is still about 700 a day. On the other hand, there has been a perceptible tendency to come earlier in the morning, so that the attendance is spread more evenly than it used to be over the day, and a seat may now occasionally be secured in the afternoon.

LONDON : BETHNAL GREEN.—A students’ union in connection with the evening classes at the Bethnal Green Free Library has been formed, for the study of different branches of science and art.

LONDON : BIBLE SOCIETY.—The Fry Library of British Bibles, said to be the finest collection in the world, has become the property of the British and Foreign Bible Society, and is deposited at the Bible House, Queen Victoria Street.

LONDON : CHELSEA.—Some of the residents in the outlying part of Chelsea, better known to Londoners as Queen’s Park and Kensal Town, have taken a practical way of proving their appreciation of the new library recently opened in the Harrow Road, by calling a public meeting for the purpose of forming a special book-purchasing fund. At this meeting, which was held on the 12th March, and largely attended, a Committee was formed to raise subscriptions, and already a considerable sum has been gathered. This movement is the more gratifying because it is quite spontaneous and has not originated with the Commissioners.

LONDON : CHISWICK.—A meeting of ratepayers was held at Chiswick on March 10th, to consider a proposal in favour of the adoption of the



Public Libraries Acts in their parish. Upon the question being put to the meeting a large majority voted in favour of the proposal. A poll, however was demanded, the result being 129 votes for the adoption of the Acts, and 25 votes against.

LONDON : CHRISTCHURCH, SOUTHWARK.—Mr. Henry Wm. Bull assistant-librarian of the Reading Public Library, has been appointed librarian of the Christchurch Library.

LONDON : CITY POLICE LIBRARY.—At the annual library dinner of the sixth division of the City Police, on February 26th, it was stated that the library contained 19,000 volumes, and that out of the 108 members of the sixth division, 106 were members of the library.

LONDON : GUILDHALL LIBRARY.—The British Museum authorities have presented to the Guildhall Library about 5,000 volumes, and a large number of pamphlets, selected from a much larger quantity of duplicates by Mr. Welch. An interesting article on these and other additions was given in the *City Press* of February 12th.

LONDON : PADDINGTON.—The annual meeting of the members of the committee of the Paddington Free Public Library and their friends took place on February 22nd, at the Paddington Town Hall. The report showed that during the past year 51,696 persons had visited the library on week-days and 4,092 on Sundays. The library contained upwards of 3,000 volumes. Hopes were expressed that the question of the adoption of the Public Libraries Acts would be again brought before the rate-payers.

LONDON : ST. MARTIN-IN-THE-FIELDS.—On Tuesday, 18th March, the Prince of Wales, who was accompanied by the Princess of Wales and the Princesses Maud and Victoria, honoured the royal parish by laying the memorial stone of the Town Hall and Free Public Library. Amongst those present were the Right Hon. W. H. Smith, M.P. for the division, the Bishop of London, the Baroness Burdett-Coutts, Rev. Henry White, chaplain to the House of Commons, Lord Kinnaird, Mr. Thomas Prescott (who took a principal part in getting the Acts adopted), Mr. Churchwarden Challice and other Commissioners, Mr. Robert Walker, architect of the building, and Mr. Thomas Mason, the librarian. The Library Association was represented by Mr. E. Maunde Thompson, Dr. George Bullen, Messrs. Robert Harrison, J. Y. W. MacAlister, Charles Welch, R. W. Douthwaite, W. H. K. Wright, and the principal public librarians of the Metropolis. The Rev. J. F. Kitto (vicar and chairman), read an address from the Library Commissioners detailing the steps which had been taken in establishing the library. The Prince then placed a memorial stone of white marble on the southern wall of the lending library. Lord Kinnaird thanked the Prince on behalf of the Commissioners for honouring them with his presence, and the Prince, in reply, expressed the very great pleasure that the Princess and himself took in the proceedings, and said he had no doubt that the library would be of the greatest possible benefit and importance to the people of the district. The proceedings of the day were brought to a close by a dinner in the Holborn Restaurant, under the chairmanship of the vicar, Rev. J. F. Kitto. The free library faces St. Martin's Lane, and provides the following accommodation:—On the ground floor, lending library, magazine reading room and librarian's office. The half basement is adapted as a large news-room. The reference library is on the first floor, and on the second floor will be provided a residence for the librarian. The contract is being carried out by Messrs. Peto Brothers at a cost of about £7,000. The style of architecture adopted

is that known as classic Renaissance, and all the elevations are being built in Portland stone. The *New York Herald* of the 19th March contained a number of illustrations of the event, including outline portraits of the chairman and of Mr. Mason.

LONDON : ST. MARYLEBONE. — The Dowager Lady Howard de Walden has offered £500 to the fund for establishing a branch library in the eastern portion of this borough. Lord Sandhurst has accepted the position of Chairman of the Committee, and the Vice-chairman is Mr. E. Boulnois, M.P. The last edition of the *Encyclopædia Britannica* has been recently added to the library in Lisson Grove, the catalogue of which library is now in the press.

MANCHESTER : CHETHAM LIBRARY.—Mr. J. E. Tinkler has resigned the librarianship of the Chetham Library.

MANCHESTER.—The Free Library Committee have ordered for the Free Reference Library a complete set of Mr. Muybridge's instantaneous photographs of animals in motion. In connection with a lecture on sculpture by Mr. John Cassidy, delivered on March 10th, the Committee have printed a list of some two hundred works relating to sculpture, wood-carving, ivory-carving and metal work, in the Free Reference Library.

NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE.—At the recent dispersal of the library of Mr. Robinson at Newcastle, many of the rare local books, of which Mr. Robinson had a wonderful collection, were bought by the Newcastle Public Library.

The *Newcastle Chronicle* prints the following:—"The free library is too far distant from many parts of Newcastle to be of use, in a reading-room sense, to many inhabitants, and as the branch reading rooms started at the Board Schools have been dropped, the idea of establishing chapel reading rooms has been mooted in Newcastle. At Dilston Road the subject indeed has been more than mooted: it is being tried. The Wesleyan body there—who are about to build a new chapel from designs by Mr. J. W. Taylor—have devoted a portion of their premises to the object of a news-room. The daily, evening, weekly, and other papers are taken in, and both adults and juveniles are admitted as readers. A good many persons have already, we understand, taken advantage of the commencement of the institution. The idea seems to be a very good one. School rooms and vestries might with great benefit and convenience be adapted to it, and such places, especially if conducted on unsectarian principles, would possibly come into favour. They would serve the purposes in a great measure of social clubs, and by a little energy might be the means of disseminating—with the circulating library principle put in force—a good deal of healthy and entertaining literature."

The British Museum has presented 406 volumes to the Newcastle Free Library. They were selected by Mr. Haggerston from between seven and eight thousand volumes.

NOTTINGHAM FREE LIBRARY.—The Patent Office authorities have presented a set of the *Trade Marks Journal* to the above library. It is within our knowledge that some time ago the same authorities refused a grant of the *Journal* to the public library of a far larger town than Nottingham.

PETERHEAD.—The Acts have been adopted here by a unanimous vote.

PLYMOUTH.—After being closed for some months in consequence of the scarlet fever epidemic in the town, the lending department of the Public Library was reopened on February 27th.



**SALE, CHESHIRE.**—It has been decided by the subscribers to a fund being raised for the purpose of erecting a Public Library at Sale that the structure shall be completed by a committee of the subscribers, and then formally handed over to the Sale Local Board. About £900 has already been promised, and it is expected that with further subscriptions the total will reach £1,100. The building is to be commenced at once.

**ST. HELENS: A NOVEL EXHIBITION.**—The committee of the Free Public Library have resolved to exhibit in the Reading Room during Easter, from two till eight p.m., a number of the fine art books and expensive illustrated works from the reference department, with a view to bringing before the public some of their treasures, which at present are very little called for. The idea was suggested by Mr. Dromgoole. Members of the committee have expressed their willingness to attend at the library during the exhibition and give what assistance they can to the visitors.

**WALSALL.**—The Public Library Committee have resolved: "That an additional room be built at the Public Library, at an estimated cost of £600, as shown on the plan prepared by the borough surveyor, to be used as a lending library, and that the present lending library be used exclusively for museum purposes."

**WOOLTON, NEAR LIVERPOOL.**—The ratepayers of Woolton on February 17th resolved in public meeting to adopt the Public Libraries Acts.

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A Bill has been introduced into the House of Commons by Sir John Lubbock, Mr. Baumann, Mr. Sydney Buxton, Sir William Houldsworth and Mr. Justin M'Carthy, to amend the Public Libraries Act. It substitutes the county and borough electorate, as established by the County Electors' Act, 1888, and the Municipal Corporations Act, 1882, for the electorate of ratepayers, to whom the power of adopting the Libraries Act is given by the Act of 1855. Where the district in which it is proposed to apply the Act contains a population of more than 5,000, it provides that the opinion of the voters shall be taken by voting papers alone; and that the Acts may be adopted subject to a condition that a maximum rate shall not exceed one halfpenny or three farthings in the pound, and that these limitations may be wholly removed, or that the halfpenny limitation may be extended to three farthings. By the regulations embodied in the Bill, it is proposed that a majority of those voting shall prevail, and not that a majority of the constituency shall be necessary; and that each voter may vote separately on each question of the adoption of the Acts, and as to the rate to be fixed, there being a separate scrutiny to each question.

THE Editor will be glad to recommend a gentleman of liberal education who is anxious to obtain an appointment as assistant or sub-librarian, with the view of thoroughly qualifying himself for a higher position.

## **Librarians of the Mersey District.**

The quarterly meeting was held on 28th February, at the Town Hall, St. Helen's. After tea, which was provided by the kind hospitality of the Mayor, the chair was taken by Mr. Lancaster. The formal business having been transacted, specimens of binding, forms and catalogues were exhibited by several members. Miss Richardson (St. Helens Free Library) then read a paper on "Librarianship as a profession for Women," in which the advantages and conditions of the employment of women were



ably discussed. In the conversation which followed, the experience of several members on this point was given.

The Hon. Secretary then opened an informal discussion on the Prize Draft "Libraries Bill" of Messrs. Ogle and Fovarque, in which all the members present took part, and the greater portion of the bill was gone through clause by clause. It was directed that the suggestions agreed upon should be forwarded to Mr. Ogle and to the Editor of *The Library*.

On the invitation of Mr. Sutton it was arranged that the next meeting should be held in Manchester, in June, and the meeting closed with the usual votes of thanks.

CHARLES MADELEY, Hon. Secretary.

## Library Catalogues and Reports.

Leeds. Nineteenth Annual Report of the Leeds Public (Free) Library, 1888-9. pp. 26.

These libraries contain 156,758 volumes: 3,147 were added during the year. The year's issues totalled 862,084 volumes, and the visits to reading rooms are recorded as 1,194,117. The issues are 39,079 volumes in excess of those of 1886-7, and 26,527 volumes of those of 1885-6. The attendances are 47,018 in excess of those of 1886-7, but 324,628 less than those of 1878-9, although several branches have been established since that time. The total amount paid in salaries at twenty-three branches is £40 5s. 4½d.—the highest branch total being £107 16s., and the lowest £2 6s. There are seventeen branches whose wage sheets are under £50 a year; ten under £20; and five under £10 a year. The rents, rates, taxes and insurances of twenty-one branches total £193 18s. 8d., or an average of £9 4s. 8d.—the highest being £60 7s. 6d., and the lowest one shilling and sixpence! The total expenditure for the year for Central, Branch, and Travelling Libraries, and Museums was £5,566 18s. 9d. The "comparative view of work accomplished in the *leading* Public Libraries" of England is somewhat misleading. The "leading" public libraries of this country are given, as those of Liverpool, Birmingham, Manchester, Leeds, Sheffield, Bradford, *Halifax*, *Middlesborough*, and *Doncaster*—whilst those of Bristol, Nottingham, Newcastle, Salford, Bolton, and at other places of greater importance and with larger libraries than some of these are ignored, although in the report under notice the gift of the annual reports of most of these libraries, is acknowledged.

Borough of Aberdeen. Report by the Public Library Committee, 1888-89. pp. 23.

This tells of the increase in the activity and popularity of the library. The year's issues totalled 298,262 volumes as against 275,498 in 1887-8—an increase of 22,764. The lending library contains either 22,002 volumes, or 22,286 volumes—for both these totals are given. The registered borrowers for the year reached 8,649, the average issue to each person being 27 volumes. A site for a new building has been obtained, and a design has been provisionally adopted. Nearly £4,200 have been subscribed towards the cost of erecting the building, including a grant from the Town Council of £1,000, and a gift of a similar sum from Mr. Carnegie.

Wolverhampton. Twentieth Annual Report of the Wolverhampton Free Library Committee, pp. 20.

The old folio reports of this library have at last ceased to be issued, and have given way to a handier form. The reading rooms have never been better attended than during the year reported upon ; and the issues from the lending library were greater than during the previous nine years—owing largely to the replacing of worn-out books. More funds are wanted to keep pace with the times. The Lending Library contains 25,012 volumes, and the Reference Library 5,378. There are 1,610 volumes of juvenile literature in the former. The issues from the Lending Library were 65,674 volumes (being a daily average issue of 271 volumes), and in the Reference Library 8,401 volumes. There are evening classes and lectures associated with the library work. The librarian (Mr. J. Elliot) has been presented with his portrait by his committee and the teachers, and a duplicate has been placed in the Museum.

City of Belfast. First Annual Report of the Committee of the Free Public Library to the Council of the City, 1888-89, pp. 25.

A short history of the library is given. The lending library comprises 14,105 volumes and includes a collection of juvenile literature to the extent of 1,885 volumes. The total issues for the year amounted to 185,147 volumes, being a daily average issue of 623, and a turn-over of stock exceeding 13. The prose fiction issues were 58·5 per cent. There were 8,426 borrowers' tickets issued. The daily average attendance at the newsroom was 2,744.

Borough of Cheltenham. Fifth Annual Report of the Public Library Committee, 1888-89, pp. 16.

The total of issues for the year was 136,916 volumes—4,458 more than in 1887-8. The library was removed to its new, handsome, and commodious abode on April 24th, 1889. The whole of the library is on one floor. The stock consists of 15,409 volumes—9,749 in the lending library, and 5,660 in the reference library. All borrowers' cards have been renewed—there being now 5,119 in use. The juvenile section issues reached 25,569, volumes. A new catalogue is in course of compilation. The removal to new quarters has given a great impetus to the work of the institution.

County Borough of Halifax. Seventh Annual Report of the Public Library Committee, 1888-9. pp. 22.

A mansion and estate have been purchased for £8,000. The former is now being adapted for central library purposes. There were 1,297 borrowers enrolled during the year. The issues were 132,797 volumes, being 16,971 more than in 1887-8; 5,000 have been withdrawn as worn out. More funds are required to keep the books in proper condition. Mr. J. Whiteley succeeded Mr. J. Reed Welch (now of Clapham), in the librarianship. The libraries contain 40,506 volumes.

Borough of Doncaster. Twentieth Annual Report of the Borough Free Library Committee, 1889. pp. 12.

The new building was inaugurated on June 20th, 1889. A "Cotgreave Indicator" has been obtained ; a ladies' room has been opened, and the



large news-room and the magazine-room have been largely attended. The lending library issues were 64,856 volumes. A new catalogue is being prepared; 2,086 volumes were consulted in the reference library. Borrowers' cards were issued to the number of 1,936. The year's rate realized £441.

### Notes on Books.

**Book-Prices Current:** A record of the prices at which books have been sold at auction, from December, 1887, to November, 1888, Vol. II. London: Elliot Stock, 1889. 8vo. pp. x. 505.

The second volume lacks the interest attaching to the first, as no great sales have occurred within the period chronicled. But nevertheless the record is both interesting and useful, and we have little doubt that both amateurs and professionals will find food for reflection in the perusal of the bald entries of which it is composed. A capital index renders the book easy of reference.

**Some obsolete modes of punishment:** the stocks, brank, man-trap, and gibbet-irons. By Charles Madeley, Curator and Librarian of the Warrington Museum. Warrington 1889. 8vo, pp. 38.

This interesting essay contains information which will probably be new to many readers. It is remarkable to find that the law was altogether oblivious of such an instrument as the brank, although in common use in the seventeenth century, and occasionally even as late as 1834, which is the date of the last recorded instance. The latest use of the stocks is so recent as 1872, when at Newbury the punishment was inflicted for drunkenness and disorderly conduct in church. Several plates illustrate the pamphlet.

**The Trade of the United Kingdom with the World.** A manual of instruction and reference. Giving a concise account of the sources and supplies of our chief imports, and of the distribution of our chief exports, with an abstract of our trade with each country of the world, and of the trade of the chief ports of the United Kingdom, &c., &c. By Thomas J. Dymes, B.A. London: Elliot Stock, 1889. Crown 8vo, pp. viii., 116.

The official returns of the Board of Trade have been condensed in a convenient form, and the abstract which is accompanied by statements and information from general sources forms a manual which will be of great service to commercial students.

**Shakspeare's Skull and Falstaff's Nose.** A fancy in three acts. By Belgrave Titmarsh. London: Elliot Stock, 1889. Fcap. 8vo, pp. 80.

This is a pleasantly written farce bearing on the Bacon-Shakspeare controversy. The characters of Dryasdust and his lover Janet Fluter,



are well sketched. The former with the help of a doctor steals Shakspeare's skull, and in the *denouement* Janet expounds her theory that the writer of the plays was not Shakspeare but Bacon, which she imagines she has proved by some such process as Mr. Donnelly employs. The discourse to the "Company of True Shaksperians" on Falstaff's Nose is a fairly successful and decidedly amusing parody.

Andrew Brice, and the early Exeter newspaper press: and who wrote "The Exmoor Scolding and Courtship!" By T. N. Brushfield, M.D. 8vo, pp. 64.

The papers which Dr. Brushfield has reprinted from the "Transactions of the Devonshire Association for the Advancement of Science, Literature and Art" are of the greatest bibliographical value. If a history of periodical literature should ever be undertaken the writer must depend largely on such contributions as that at present under notice for authentic information regarding the provincial presses. The earliest newspaper printed in Exeter appeared on September 24th, 1714. Very exact descriptions and reduced facsimile illustrations of the newspapers are given. The career of the printer whose name heads the title of the pamphlet was a chequered one; prosecutions, fines, and imprisonment were not unknown to him. In the second paper the author considers that the burden of proof points to Andrew Brice and Benjamin Bowring as being the authors of "The Exmoor Scolding and Courtship."

Bibliography of Hull, 1888. Compiled by W. G. Page. Hull, 1889. Crown 8vo, pp. 12.

In this little pamphlet Mr. Page continues his record of local publications, serial articles, and works by natives of Hull. He concludes his short introduction by requesting intimation of publications for his forthcoming bibliography for 1889.

The Printers and Mr. Childs: Celebration of the Birthday of George W. Childs. From the Printer's Circular, Philadelphia, May, 1888. 16mo, pp. 48.

An account of a banquet given to the publisher of the "Public Ledger." A reduced facsimile of the first issue of the newspaper, dated, March 25th, 1836, accompanies the tract.

F. Eyssenhardt, Mittheilungen aus der Stadtbibliothek zu Hamburg, VI. 1889. 8vo, pp. 125.

The letters of Don Gil Gongalez de Avila occupy the greater part of this number. At the end is a short report of the management of the library in 1888, 4,240 books besides 296 periodicals were added during the year; 18,000 medical and chemical dissertations were arranged and stored in 500 cases; 12,673 volumes were used by 3,792 people in the reading-room.

Northampton as a Cycling Centre, containing Notes on Danes Camp, Althorp, Kirby Hall, Triangular Lodge, Liveden,

Bone Crypt at Rothwell, &c. By Richard Greene. Northampton: Taylor & Son, 1889. 8vo, pp. 20.

A pleasantly written and prettily illustrated guide-book to the district of which it treats. The account of the famous library at Althorp is meagre, but sufficient to whet the appetite of a bookish wheel-man.

## Correspondence.

### THE PENNY IN THE POUND.

*To the Editor of the "Library."*

SIR,—I am anxious to know what libraries have obtained powers to spend more than 1d. in the £1 and the means they adopted to gain this privilege. Will those who know kindly give information in the pages of the *Library*.  
ENQUIRER.

### WHAT TO BUY; WHEN TO SELL.

*To the Editor of the "Library."*

SIR,—I observe others besides myself have thought it would be of interest if English librarians could be induced to give more details of their methods and principles of working. Might I ask if some readers of the *Library* would inform me through its pages upon what principles books are selected for their collections?

Symptoms are not wanting that on either side of the Atlantic several institutions are beginning to feel the weight of books that are no longer used. Now for my part I should very much like to know what powers the principal libraries (say Birmingham, Liverpool and Manchester) exercise as to the disposal of their "surplusage."

We see in the Reports a brief item "Condemned 500," but how is the conclusion arrived at? Are these only duplicates, or are they books considered useless from their character? A little mild fun has been poked at the Shakespeare Memorial Library, and doubts have been expressed whether "Shakespeare in the dialect of the Ukraine" is really a useful work for the town of Birmingham to possess. However that may be, we all know that in a library there are unread shelves. Now in libraries of deposit, like the British Museum, a policy widely different to that of a free library may be pursued. The latter may, it seems to me, be compared to a farmer; his ground is limited, and as far as possible he wants *to keep it all cropped*. Manchester, if I understand aright, gets rid of "worn out or otherwise unserviceable" books considerably faster than Birmingham. In 1885-86, 4,195 volumes; in 1886-87, 3,408 were given away. At the same time one is left in some doubt whether a good number of these are not replaced, as "replacements," I notice, are included in "additions." I know not of course whether these points may seem of interest to you. To me, I must confess, they seem important items in the administration of a "working library." For the maintenance of this character is, I presume, the great thing for a free public librarian to bear in mind.  
STUDENT.

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L. M. ALCOCK.—We shall be pleased to insert your note if couched in a somewhat less personal form. It savours too much of the "puff direct."

PUBLIC LIBRARIES: MONTHLY RETURN OF ISSUES, &c.

FEBRUARY, 1890.

Name and No. of Libraries in operation.	REFERENCE LIBRARIES.				Sunday. Daily Average Attendance.	LENDING LIBRARIES.					
	No. of Vols.	Issue for Month.	Days Open.	Daily Average.		No. of Borrowers.	No. of days Books lent.	No. of Vols.	Issue for Month.	Days Open.	Daily Average.
Alloa 1 .....	500	26	24	1	...	1,600	7 & 14	7,000	3,851	24	160
Barrow 1 .....	2,290	1,361	24	56	...	2,374	14	13,238	8,505	24	354
Battersea 1 ...	...	...	...	...	...	4,083	14	5,524	8,711	24	362
Birkenhead 1	11,275	9,434	24	393	...	6,088	7, 10 & 14	32,971	14,220	24	592
Brighton 1 ...	12,545	3,093	24	129	...	8,851	14	19,599	9,078	24	378
Bristol 6 .....	15,412	20,165	24	840	...	18,654	7	58,769	36,693	22	1,668
Cardiff 1 .....	13,324	1,061	24	44	...	6,304	14	17,265	11,367	24	473
Chelsea 2 .....	4,344	3,782	28	135	540	940	14	4,425	3,992	24	166
Chester 1 .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	10	...	4,690	24	195
Clapham 1 ...	617	538	20	27	...	3,096	14	4,513	6,581	20	329
Clerkenwell 1	1,240	...	...	...	...	2,662	15	8,723	6,880	24	286
Fulham 1 .....	2,394	274	20	13	261	5,466	14	5,728	9,397	20	419
Glasgow : Mitchell 1	85,335	27,142	24	1,131	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Hanley 1 .....	2,085	581	24	24	...	1,861	7 & 10	5,739	5,968	24	245
Kensington 3	Lending	1,403	28	50	?	...	14	13,941	10,276	20	513
Leeds 27 .....	39,608	10,428	24	434	...	21,259	14	115,867	60,434	24	1,171 <sup>1</sup>
Leicester 3 ...	9,799	3,097	24	129	...	7,400	7	22,677	23,413	24	975
Marylebone 1	700	1,067	24	45	183	429	7 & 14	3,800	1,315	24	55
Norwich 1 .....	6,474	...	...	...	400	3,804	14	12,642	9,220	20	461
Paddington 1	3,181	304	28	11	76	...	...	...	...	...	...
Portsmouth 1	3,002	381	24	15	...	11,658	7 & 14	18,349	22,871	24	952
Preston 1 .....	...	...	...	...	...	15,196	14	16,315	8,878	24	372
Reading 1 .....	3,615	571	24	23	...	6,954	14	15,740	13,416	23	583
Richmond 1 ...	6,913	729	20	36	...	2,840	7	9,185	8,428	20	421
St. Helens 2	3,696	283	24	11	533	1,904	7	12,175	9,755	24	406
Sheffield 5 ..	12,961	3,665	24	153	...	13,660	7 & 14	79,826	38,665	24	1,611
Wandsworth 1	3,234	216	20	10	...	3,400	7	6,801	6,917	20	345
Westminster 2	Lending	7,055	26	271	...	3,883	14	21,769	7,852	26	302
Wolverhampton 1	5,378	836	20	41	...	1,876	14	25,012	5,768	20	288

<sup>1</sup> Central Library only.

Librarians who contribute to this table are reminded that their returns should be sent in by the 14th of each month to Mr. J. D. Brown, 19, Tysoe Street, Clerkenwell, W.C.



## Library Association Record.

The last Monthly Meeting was held at 20, Hanover Square, on Monday, March 10th, at 8 p.m. There was a good attendance. Mr. Robert Walker, F.R.I.B.A., of 33, King Street, Covent Garden, was elected a member. A paper, entitled "How we Built up a burnt Library at Birmingham," was read by Mr. G. Wakeling and an interesting discussion followed.

At the last Council Meeting it was resolved to engage a room for the use of the Association at 20, Hanover Square. It is hoped that the room will be ready before the end of April, and that members of the Association will make free use of it when in town. It will contain the bibliographical collection that has been slowly growing during the last twelve years, and there will be accommodation for writing. Members' letters may be left at 20, Hanover Square, but to prevent mistakes the name of the Association should form part of the address.

Mr. D. W. Douthwaite, who did such good service for the Association at the last annual meeting, has been appointed Assistant Secretary.

The next Monthly Meeting will be held at the Association's Rooms, 20, Hanover Square, W., on Monday, April 14th, at 8 p.m. A paper, "On Library Indicators," will be read by Mr. Hugh James, Commissioner of the Battersea Public Libraries. The Council will meet at 7 the same evening.

NOTE.—The Treasurer will be glad if members in arrear will be good enough to send their subscriptions to him as soon as possible. Those who wish to join under the provision whereby "library assistants *approved by the Council*, shall only be required to pay a subscription of 10s. 6d.," are requested to make the necessary application to the Hon. Secretaries.

THE LIBRARY ASSOCIATION OF THE UNITED KINGDOM was founded on October 5th, 1877, at the conclusion of the Library Conference held at the London Institution, under the presidency of Mr. J. Winter Jones, Principal Librarian of the British Museum.

Its objects are (a) to encourage and aid by every means in its power the establishment of new libraries; (b) to endeavour to secure better legislation for free libraries; (c) to unite all persons engaged or interested in library work for the purpose of promoting the best possible administration of libraries; and (d) to encourage bibliographical research.

Annual meetings have been held in various leading towns, including London, Oxford, Manchester, Edinburgh, Cambridge, Liverpool, Dublin, Plymouth, Birmingham and Glasgow. The next Annual Meeting (1890) will be held in Reading by the invitation of the Chairman and Committee of the Free Public Library.

Monthly meetings are held on the second Monday of each month, from October to June, and are announced in *The Library*.

The Annual Subscription is One Guinea, payable in advance, on the 1st January. The Life Subscription is Fifteen Guineas. *Any person actually engaged in library administration may become a member at once on payment to the Treasurer of the Subscription.* Any person not so engaged may be elected at the Monthly of Annual Meetings. Library Assistants, approved by the Council, are admitted on payment of a Subscription of Half-a-Guinea.

Editorial Communications and Books for Review should be addressed to the Editor, 20, Hanover Square, W.

*Printed for the Publisher by J. BALE & SONS, 87-89, Great Titchfield Street, London, W.*

Poor Dryasdust !

Poor Dryasdust ! how long, how long,  
Shall shallow critics do thee wrong,  
And of thy rusty manners speak,  
Missing the tear upon thy cheek,  
And deeming too thy heart arust,

Poor Dryasdust !

I know thee better, yea ! I know  
What love it is that lurks below  
Thy snuffy garb and testy tongue,  
And so my little breath of song  
Is fain to blow away thy dust,

Poor Dryasdust !

What heart so ready with its beat  
At some old story's bitter-sweet,  
What eye so tender with its tear  
For every flower dead and dear ;  
Despite thy dingy outer crust,

Poor Dryasdust !

RICHARD LE GALLIENNE.

## An East End Free Library.\*

THE story of what has been achieved at Bethnal Green and the evidence of what may be accomplished by voluntary effort, when parochial authorities may not be willing to adopt the Libraries Acts, may prompt energetic minds to follow the example of the promoters of the Bethnal Green Free Library.

I do not propose to enter into a minute description of that part of London which, more than any other, must be studied closely to be understood, and which has been styled "The Joyless City," "A little world of itself," &c., &c. Attempts have been made from time to time to delineate East London, but perhaps the most forcible description that has recently appeared, and certainly the most widely known, is contained in the novel, *All Sorts and Conditions of Men*.

"Two millions of people, or thereabouts, live in the East End of London. That seems a good-sized population for an utterly unknown town. They have no institutions of their own to speak of, no public buildings of any importance, no municipality, no gentry, no carriages, no soldiers, no theatres, no picture galleries, no opera, they have nothing !!! It is the fashion to believe that they are all paupers, which is a foolish and mischievous belief. Probably there is no such spectacle in the whole world as that of this immense, neglected, forgotten, great City of 'East London.' It is even neglected by its own citizens, who have never yet perceived their abandoned condition. They are Londoners, it is true, but they have no part or share of London. Its wealth, its splendours, its honours exist not for them. They see nothing of any splendours, even the Lord Mayor's Show goeth westward, the City lies between them and the greatness of England. They are beyond the wards, and cannot become Aldermen; the rich London merchants go north, and south, and west, but they go not east. Nobody goes east, no one wants to see the place, no one is curious about the life in the east. Books on London pass it over; it has little or no history; great men are not buried in its

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\* Read at the Annual Meeting of the Library Association, London, October, 1889.



churchyards, which are not even ancient, and crowded by citizens as obscure as those who now breathe the upper airs above them. If anything happens in the east, people at the other end have to stop and think before they can remember where the place may be."

In times past East London has had, living and labouring in its midst men who have done good service in their day and generation. Mention may be made of the eminent Greek scholar, the late Bishop of St. David's, Dr. Thirwall; the philanthropist of wide-world fame, the Rev. Dr. Andrew Reed; the compiler and editor of the works of John Bunyan, George Offer, and of the Spitalfields weaver, who, with his green baize apron, was translated from his loom in Angel Alley, Bishopsgate, to the office of Principal of the Royal Observatory, at Greenwich. No reference need be made to men now living, and engaged in furthering the well-being and happiness of the people.

Of that portion of East London written of as "the remote regions of Bethnal Green," I will quote a few lines from a volume recently published, entitled, *Life and Labour of the People, East London*, by Charles Booth. "On the whole, it will be seen that St. George's-in-the-East is the poorest district, though run very hard by Bethnal Green, in this unenviable race." Taking the number of the very poor, Bethnal Green heads the list.

About thirteen years ago, immediately after the borough had for the third time rejected, by a very decisive majority, the adoption of the "Public Libraries Acts," it happened that a number of gentlemen, including Lord Kinnaird, the late Samuel Morley, Esq., the late Sir James Tyler, his brother, the Rev. Dr. Tyler, and Mr. F. A. Bevan, had already taken the necessary steps towards the erection of a freehold building in London Street for philanthropic purposes. There, with a modest collection of 500 volumes, it was arranged that a Free Library should be opened for Bethnal Green. It was confessedly an experiment, and in the opinion of many, who supposed that they understood the ways and aspirations of the poor, not a very promising one. A large proportion of the more elderly people were not in a condition to appreciate the movement, and it was doubtful whether the attraction offered by the books to the younger folk would successfully compete with the light, frivolous, and even debasing amusements which abounded in the district. The satisfaction was accordingly great when

it was discovered that the library was accepted as a boon by all classes of the people. Doubtless too low an estimate had been formed of the intellectual character of the inhabitants. They had little self-respect, and little desire for improvement, and neglected by those who ought to have laboured for their advancement, it could not be wondered at if their habits and pursuits were the reverse of elevated.

The supply of books created a demand. Thoughtful readers were found among the industrial classes, and others, resident in the locality. After a short time the hours during which the library was open were extended from the three hours in the evening, which at the outset had been deemed sufficient, from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. (except for an interval of one hour.)

It was not long before the question, "What are 500 volumes among so many?" forced itself upon the promoters. Endeavours were promptly made to augment the stock of books. The result has been that the library shelves contain now upwards of 20,000 bound volumes, these being supplemented by a large collection of magazines, reviews, pamphlets, and journals, the contributions of generous donors. As the library was extended it became necessary to consider the question of providing for its efficient maintenance; and various methods besides appealing in the ordinary way for donations and subscriptions were tried. About five years ago a remarkable demonstration was made in Victoria Park, under the presidency of the then Lord Mayor, Alderman Sir Robert N. Fowler, at which tens of thousands of people were assembled, crowds of people lined the streets, who gave liberally to the collections that were made along the route by representatives of trade and benefit societies.

The people themselves are so far interested in what they properly believe to be their own Library, that they desire to have their share in providing for its support.

The thirst for information is observed to be greatly on the increase; many of our visitors find it difficult to make much progress, but they are encouraged to spend their hours in reading other works than the *Police News* and the lighter kind of literature: with some it is a matter of slow development. There were no Board Schools in the youth-time of the middle-aged labourers; they grew up without any inducement to study, but they are now to be seen carefully looking over the *Illustrated London News* or the *Graphic*, &c., preferring to read periodicals in the library rather than lounging in a public-house.

The newspaper department is the most popular.

In order to supply the required space for storing the specifications of patents, an ingenious system of book-presses has been introduced, under the direction of Dr. Tyler, by which the shelving accommodation is increased threefold. Library committees, when erecting new buildings, will act wisely by inspecting this simple contrivance, which can be adapted to meet the requirements of almost any library.

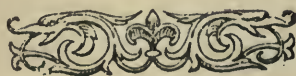
As a means of disposing of the duplicate or surplus stock, free grants have been made from time to time to such institutions as Workhouse Infirmaries, Workmen's Clubs, Coffee Palaces, Coffee Houses, Working Lads' Institutes, Police Stations, Sunday Schools, Post Office Telegraph Messengers, and other libraries.

Another branch of the institution deserving special mention is the lecture hall, where free illustrated scientific and other lectures are delivered by men of the highest eminence in their professions, and where concerts are frequently given. When the lecture hall is likely to be too small to accommodate the number who may be expected to attend, the largest hall in the East-End has been secured, capable of holding 5,000 persons, and has been filled by audiences of working people.

These lectures have created a desire for technical information among the young people of both sexes, and as a consequence, classes have been formed and are now numerous attended.

It only remains for me to add that the present building has become quite inadequate for the purposes of the library. The Trustees have in contemplation the erection of new and larger premises upon a commanding site, which, when completed, will considerably enhance the convenience of readers, and afford space for the ever increasing contributions, which are being made by friends of the institution.

G. F. HILCKEN.





## Fiction in Free Libraries.\*

THE subject of Fiction in Free Libraries has been discussed at least once before at a previous Conference of the Library Association, and as it is a subject which doubtless, in the opinion of some members, no amount of discussion will ever settle, perhaps I may be expected in re-opening the discussion to say something new—to present the matter in a fresh light. I shall try.

Hitherto this question of fiction has mainly been argued between those who consider all fiction foul or useless, and those who see no harm in it at all. Let us seek a middle course. The fact that in some free libraries the proportion of fiction to other classes is over 80 per cent., has led librarians to think that something between 50 and 60 per cent. is the proper proportion of fiction, and you occasionally read in a library report that the issue of fiction has been *only* 58 per cent. or 56 per cent., as the case may be. This inclination to consider between 50 and 60 per cent. of fiction as an ideal state of things, arises mainly from the circumstance that the lowest recorded percentage lies between these figures, and it is not in any way the result of inquiry into the relations which the several classes of literature should bear to each other.

To know what position fiction should occupy in the returns of our reading, we must first ascertain what position it occupies in literature itself. The reading ought to be considered in the light of the provision.

In the search for the ideal library—perhaps as unfindable as the hundred best books—in which each class of literature should bear a just proportion to the others, I made free with the reports of 25 free libraries in England and Scotland.

I confined my attention to the lending departments of these libraries, as being more free from the operation of local causes in the selection of the books.

The 25 comprise some of the largest free libraries in the country, and some of the smallest. Some of the towns and

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\* Read at the Annual Meeting of the Library Association, London, October, 1889.

cities are engaged in shipbuilding, some in the manufacture of cotton, of boots and other articles, and some are engaged in everything, and others in nothing in particular. They are scattered up and down Great Britain, and all the libraries have been established long enough to entitle us to consider them for all practical purposes as formed. I am not going to give the names of the places, as it is no part of my plan to subject myself to the abuse of 25 enraged librarians. I guarantee my figures to be as correct as the official reports.

The 25 libraries together contained 414,443 volumes. Of these 22,805 belonged to Theology, Philosophy, and Ecclesiastical History; Biography numbered 33,395; History, Voyages and Travels amounted to 63,690; Education, Politics and Commerce to 9,245; Arts, Sciences and Natural History to 46,863; Poetry and the Drama to 13,970; Miscellaneous literature, such as Essays, Collected Works, and Encyclopædias to 68,128; and Fiction to 156,337.

For convenience I reduced these figures, and made them applicable to a library of 10,000 volumes, and this is how they came out in round figures:—

Theology, Philosophy and Ecclesiastical History	...	560
Biography	... ..	810
History, Voyages and Travels	... ..	1,540
Arts, Sciences and Natural History	... ..	1,130
Education, Politics, and Commerce	... ..	225
Poetry and the Drama	... ..	335
Fiction	... ..	3,750
Miscellaneous Literature	... ..	1,650
		<hr/>
		10,000
		<hr/>

Fiction, therefore, formed  $37\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. of the entire stock. In one of the libraries the percentage of fiction provided was as low as 20, but in another it was as much as 59.

I think that most reasonable men will agree that 3,750 out of 10,000 volumes is an ample provision of fiction.

Let us see whether the returns of reading bear us out in supposing that  $37\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. of fiction is enough, and that the other classes are not over represented in getting the other 63 per cent. among them.

In one of the libraries the proportion of fiction in the books issued for home reading was  $86\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. In nine of the

libraries the proportion was 80 or over 80 per cent. In eight it exceeded 70 per cent., and in only two places was it under 60 per cent., the figures for these two being 57 and 59 respectively. The average fiction percentage of the 25 libraries was 74 per cent. The place with the largest provision of fiction also happened to be the place with the largest issue of fiction, and the place with the smallest stock was third lowest in respect of fiction issued, and all the libraries having large stocks of fiction issued over 70 per cent. of it; but further than this the amount of provision seemed to have very little connection with the amount of reading. Some libraries with a very moderate provision of fiction were high in the percentage of fiction read. I did not take into account the difference in the populations of the 25 places, as the libraries appeared to be in each case fairly proportioned to the size of the towns. Before we finally accept these figures, however, we must remember that in estimating fiction allowance must be made for a number of works being in three volumes. Every issue of a three-volume novel is to the disadvantage of the library issuing it, as compared with another library where the novels are in one-volume form.

We must also remember that, in the case of novels far more than in any other class of literature, many books are taken out from a perusal of their titles. After a book is taken out it is found unsuitable and returned, but it counts as an issue just as much as another story, which has made the reader neglect his work and sit up half the night.

Another influence tending to increase the issues in fiction is that the works forming the other classes in the library are not always the best of their kind, and are often anything but tempting, even to the student.

Unwelcome donors frequently empty the sweepings of their own libraries into the nearest free library, and get great credit for their valueless gifts. Now it is a remarkable fact that these sweepings, as a rule, almost wholly consist of works in every class of literature save fiction.

Who can be expected to read these books? Their owner very likely never did. Yet the books are reckoned as if they were wholesome, readable works, and their presence in the library tells heavily against the character of the reading. Another circumstance must be kept in mind, and that is that novels are much more quickly read than books of a more solid kind.

Yet after all these deductions have been made, the per-



centage of fiction read is much greater than the percentage of fiction provided. What are we to make of this? If the average consumption of fiction is, say, over 60 per cent., after allowing for differences in libraries, either fiction is very much under-represented in the supply or over-represented in the reading. Surely, where an adequate supply of fiction has been provided, the proportion of fiction read should as nearly as possible correspond with the proportion of fiction provided.

We need not get into hysterics over the preference of the public for fiction to all other kinds of literature. It is natural, and the wise manager of a library provides for it; but I do think that when eight-tenths of a library's issues consists of novels, that library is missing its real work and reflecting discredit on the working of the Public Libraries Acts.

THOMAS MASON.



## A New Size Notation for Modern Books.

IT is an easy matter to criticise the various plans adopted for marking in catalogues the sizes of books ; it is less easy to suggest a more excellent way with any hope of its being so widely accepted as to become hereafter a recognised method. Nevertheless, so deplorable is the present lack of uniformity, and so certain is it that sooner or later the Library Association will have to take the matter in hand, that meanwhile it is pardonable if anyone who thinks he sees a simple and intelligible plan, suited to the needs of the rapidly increasing class of popular libraries, should advocate its adoption, or should at any rate submit it for consideration.

To remove at the outset certain obvious objections to a new and perhaps rough method, such as that which I am about to propose, I will say at once that I have in view not the scientific accuracy of the learned book-lover, but the convenience of the general reader. To the former I leave the correct classification of all books printed before the close of the eighteenth century, confining my attention to those printed since the making of paper by machinery has become general. And although I seem thus to narrow my field unduly, I believe I shall still have to deal with nearly all the books in which a reader in one of our popular libraries is interested, and that nine-tenths, if not nineteen-twentieths of the contents of such libraries would fall to be classified under my scale.

It is unnecessary to argue before an audience of librarians that a new scale for marking the sizes of books is most desirable, assuming only that its common adoption can be secured. But I should be unable to do justice to my own proposal if I did not briefly point out some of the faults which it is designed to avoid. I do not come forward as an iconoclast. I confess to a certain affection for the time-honoured descriptions *octavo*, *quarto* and *folio* ; nor do I suppose that under any circumstances they will altogether drop out of use ; but in order to avoid confusion I do not employ them in the scheme I am about to propose. I might have included *duodecimo* in my affectionate regards, were

it not that it is in continual danger of being barbarously termed *twelvemo*; but for the rest, which rarely, if ever, are correctly read, but are familiar as sixteen mo, eighteen mo, twenty-four mo, thirty-two mo, and so on, ending with that which is popularly known as "post-one-hundred-and-twenty-eight mo"—surely these are an abomination, barbarous, misleading and useless.

And while there is this barbarism at one end of the scale, there is absurdity at the other. With us folio develops into royal, super-royal and imperial, while in America a large folio is styled an "elephant," though oddly enough, a larger still is termed an "atlas folio," (the same size that the French call an "atlantic folio"), and largest of all comes the "antiquarian folio"; whereas surely the average elephant is bigger than the average antiquarian, while the "atlantic" ought to be big enough to include them all. Again, in the middle of the scale we have the sub-divisions of octavo, not only into crown, demy, and royal, which are intelligible enough, but also into foolscap, post, pot, medium, super royal and imperial, while individual publishers add to the confusion by bringing in large crown octavo, globe octavo and others, until Mr. Sothern, in his article in the *Bookmart*, for October, 1885, estimates the total number of size-designations in actual use (though some of course are rare) at no fewer than two hundred.

This great elaboration and complexity would no doubt be pardonable if it secured strict accuracy; but it is notorious that it does not. In many cases two skilled book-handlers (such a word we ought to have in English) would enter the same book under different size-designations. An American duodecimo, for example, overlaps an English octavo to the extent of nearly an inch. And the inaccuracy is not confined to size. The nomenclature in use, whether it be barbarous or not, is certainly misleading as applied to modern books. Originally of course it had to do with the folding of the paper, and only indirectly with the size of the page; and so long as paper was always hand-made, and was of certain recognised sizes, crown, demy, and royal being the most usual, the various foldings, which the water marks could always identify, produced the various sizes with tolerable accuracy. I do not say that even then all was simple and straightforward. One needs only to read through the Bodleian Library rules for distinguishing water-marked books (drawn up mainly, I believe, by Mr. William Blades, who in



this department of bibliography as well as in others is a specialist second to none), to perceive that a technical education is requisite to qualify a man for this work. An acquaintance with the sizes of papers, ancient and modern, British and foreign, including the peculiarities of individual makers, is necessary if strict accuracy is desired. But at any rate the work when done has a real meaning and value—indeed in no other way can old books that have been cruelly cut down by successive binders be certainly identified as to their edition. But with the invention of paper-making by machinery all was changed. It was one thing when your paper was never more than 30 or 32 inches long by 22 inches wide; it is another when it may be a yard or two wide and as many miles long as you please. Calculation by folding is no longer a guide. Paper folded in duodecimo form may be equal to folio in size; and the result is that the old terminology, when used of modern books, is arbitrarily interpreted, not of the foldings but of the size and the size only, as being similar to that which the folding of the old hand-made paper used to produce.

This the Americans have done for some time past; but it is impossible to examine the method adopted by the American Library Association, and employed in the American Catalogue issued at the office of the *Publishers' Weekly*, without grave misgivings. The root-idea is to give the height in centimetres, beginning with 10 and rising by  $2\frac{1}{2}$  to 20, thence by 5 to 30, and thence by 10 to 50, 60 or 70, where we meet with our friends the elephant, atlas and antiquarian folios rejoicing in the aliases of F<sup>5</sup>, F<sup>6</sup> and F<sup>7</sup> respectively, by which we are to understand folios measuring 50, 60 or 70 centimetres in height. Nor are the other verbal symbols or abbreviations less open to objection. If you are prepared to call a book about 4 inches high a quadragesimo octavo, or a 48 mo, surely it is better to mark it in figures, as we do, than to write Fe.; and similarly our method of writing sedecimo, duodecimo, octavo and quarto, is (I take it) to be preferred to the American S., D., O. and Q. This arbitrary system, though it has been in use for 13 years, is by no means universal in America, Caspar's *Book Emporium* using another scale based on inch measurements in place of centimetres (a method certainly more intelligible to the general reader) but also retaining the words implying fold-measurements, whereas size, and size only is taken into account.

I need not trouble you with any details about simplifications

of the old-fashioned book-scale which English Librarians have suggested or have used. One of the best known is that which many of us have received, in the form of a 9 inch rule, from an enterprising Librarian in the north, Mr. Madeley, of Warrington. The only criticism that I will make on this, and on all similar scales, is that they are arbitrary in their employment of the old terminology; while the absence of any qualification for denoting the smaller octavo sizes, and the variability of the limit separating duodecimo from octavo, which is 7 inches in the Bodleian Library rules for indicating the sizes of books which are not identified by the water-mark;—*i.e.*, I take it, of all modern books printed on machine-made paper— $7\frac{1}{2}$  inches in Mr. Madeley's scale, and  $7\frac{7}{8}$  inches in the American scale. This I hold to be a very serious defect, as I will proceed shortly to explain.

Now when the average reader, whom I have throughout in view, consults the catalogue of his Public Library, what is there in regard to the size of the books that it is important he should be able to ascertain? It does not matter to him the least in the world how the sheets of the book have been folded—presuming that is that the leaves have been cut—I mean cut in the sense of opened. Probably nearly every book in the library, large or small, has been folded in octavo form; but that is no concern of his. It is sufficient for his purpose if he can learn approximately the size of the book that he proposes to take out or consult. And it is an adequate approximation if we recognise four sizes which we may distinguish as A, B, C and D. The Greek letters Α, Β, Γ, and Δ have been suggested; but these might be less readily understood; while there is no fear of the others being confused with anything else, if printed in capitals and in special type. It is worth the readers' while to know if the book is quite a small one, such as can easily be slipped into the pocket, a book that some American librarians would class as *minimo*. And at the other end of the scale it is worth his while to know that the book is too big to hold in the hand—that a desk or table will be needed when he reads it. Between these two extremes the great majority of modern books will be found to lie; and it is important again to distinguish these into two classes, which I may designate the handy volume and the standard library volume respectively. We have now the four classes which I propose to mark A, B, C and D, and which a simple and easily-remembered inch scale will readily distinguish.



A will include books less than 4 inches high; B all books from 4 to 8 inches high; C all books from 8 to 12 inches high; and D all books over 12 inches high. Perhaps when we get to the elephant, atlas and antiquarian folio—that is to books over 20 inches high—the big D ought to be doubled; but that is a matter of taste.

Now this division, simple as it is, secures the one distinction in the sizes of modern books which is really of importance when it is a question of identifying the edition—I mean the distinction between octavos, demy and under, which Mr. Madeley and the Bodleian rules throw together. The value of the distinction is obvious. Everyone knows that it is a common practice of publishers to issue a book first in demy octavo size, and then, when the edition is exhausted and a large sale seems assured, in a smaller, usually a crown octavo. And as these two editions very commonly differ considerably in the matter of corrections, of omissions or of additions, it is important that a reader consulting a catalogue should be able to tell which edition the library contains. But title-pages do not always specify the edition, and the date of the first issue is not always easily remembered. So that if either edition, in spite of the difference in size, is marked octavo in the catalogue, without any further qualification (as according to the rules I have referred to, it would be) the reader is left without any guide at all. Following however the method I am now proposing the original demy octavo edition would be marked C, and the latter smaller issue would be marked B.

To conclude, then, what I claim for the A B C scale (as it may be termed) is this. It is as simple as anything of the kind can be, and it is easily remembered. It distinguishes the sizes of modern books sufficiently for the needs of the general reader. It does not profess to give information about the folding of the sheets, which the reader aforesaid really does not want to be troubled with; and, in making no such pretence, it avoids an obsolete or even barbarous phraseology, which has no business to be used to denote the sizes of modern books, since under the changed circumstances it no longer means what it says.

Of course I do not anticipate that my scale will be adopted by the British Museum, by the Bodleian, or by any other library containing great numbers of books printed before the end of the last century, which really require a more scientific classification. Nor do I suppose that the Library Association will



see its way to any official approval of the plan. But I submit it to the librarians of popular libraries, whose number and importance increase every year, as a method which I believe they would find serviceable to themselves in lightening their labours, and serviceable to their readers in facilitating their reference to the books they wish to consult.

ARTHUR W. HUTTON,

*Librarian, Gladstone Library,*

*National Liberal Club.*



## Tudor Exhibition at the British Museum.

(*Second Notice.*)

IN addition to the books and manuscripts already noticed (see *The Library*, February, 1890, pp., 63-64), the following are of special interest:—"The last will of Queene Katerine moder unto oure souverain lorde hir son [Henry VI.] upon hir depairting oute of y<sup>is</sup> world" [December, 1437-January, 1438]. This document has sustained considerable damage from fire.

Holograph Letter from Henry VII. to Katherine of Aragon on her landing in England. Without date [1501]. This is said to be the only known holograph letter of the King.

Holograph Letter from Margaret [Tudor, wife of James IV. of Scotland] to "my trust [y] frend master Cromwell," asking for his favour towards a servant of hers, whom she had sent to the King [Henry VIII.] her brother. Without date.

Holograph Letter from Mary [Tudor, wife of Louis XII., of France], to her brother, Henry VIII., 15th November (1514).

Holograph Letter from Katherine of Aragon to her husband, Henry VIII., written a few days after the Battle of Flodden, and dated 16th September [1513].

Holograph Letter from Henry VIII. to "myne owne good Cardinall" Wolsey. [March, 1518.]

Two leaves extracted from a collection of recipes to prepare plasters, spasmadraps or dipped plasters, ointments, balms, &c., devised by Henry VIII., Sir William Buttes, his physician, and others, beginning:

"A plaster for my ladye Anne of Cleve to mollifie, and  
"resolve, comforte and cease payne of colde and wyndie  
"causes," &c.

Warrant from Queen Jane Seymour to the Keeper of the Park at Havering-atte-Bower, to deliver "unto our wellbeloved the gentlemen of the chapell Royall of my soveraign Lord the King.....twoo buckes of this season," 28th June, 1537.

Holograph Letter from Queen Katharine Parr to the Council. Hampton Court, 23rd July, 1544.

Holograph Letters of Henry, Duke of Richmond [natural son of Henry VIII.], and of Mary Tudor, his widow. About 1536.

Holograph Letter from Prince Edward [afterwards Edward VI.], to his stepmother, Queen Katharine Parr. The letter, which is written in a fine bold hand, contains the following:—

“Most honorable and entierly beloved mother,—I have me  
“most humbli recompmended unto your grace w<sup>t</sup> lyke  
“thankes both for y<sup>t</sup> your grace did accepte so gentyllly my  
“simple and rude letters, and also y<sup>t</sup> it pleased your  
“grace so gentyllly to vowchsaufe to direct unto me your  
“loving and tendre letters.....

“Your loving sonne,

“E. PRINCE.”

Portions of the diary of Edward VI. [already referred to], one of them containing the following:—

“And so he [the Duke of Somerset] was adjudged to be  
“hanged. He gave thanks to the Lords for their open  
“trial, and cried mercy of the Duke of Northumberland,  
“the Marquis of Northampton, and th’ erle of Pembroke,  
“for his ill meaning against them, and made suet for his  
“life, wife, children, seruauntes, and dettes, and so de-  
“parted w<sup>t</sup> out of the ax of the towre. The people knowing  
“not the matter shouted half-a-douzen times, so loud, that  
“frome the hall dore it was hard at Chairing crosse  
“plainly, and rumours went that he was quitte of all.”

On the 22nd January following, the King drily remarks:—

“The duke of Somerset had his hedde cut of upon toure  
“hill between eight and nine a cloke in the morning.”

Holograph Letter [in French] from Queen Mary to Philip II. of Spain, during their betrothal [1554.]

There are two letters, written by Queen Elizabeth, placed side by side, which show in a very marked manner the variations in the style of her handwriting.

One, dated 15th May [1550], was addressed to her brother, Edward VI., and is written in the clear bold hand, regular as type, which so clearly indicates the hard, masculine element in the woman’s character.

The other letter, the conjectural date of which is between the years 1590 and 1603, was addressed by Elizabeth to Henry IV. of France, on the conclusion of a treaty of alliance. The handwriting bears clear marks of firmness, which was perhaps the chief feature in the character of Elizabeth, but the letter has evidently been written in a great hurry, and little attention has been paid to the regularity and uniformity of the letters.

In a large show-case are exhibited some beautiful examples



of the illuminator's art. Chief amongst them for excellence of artistic merit are the Psalter in Latin, written for Henry VIII., by John Mallard, and "Epithalamium on the Marriage of Henry VII. with Elizabeth of York," written by John de Giglis, 1486.

An interesting Book of Hours, &c., in Latin, is exhibited in the same showcase. It possesses miniatures and borders executed in the Flemish style, and was probably written at the end of the fifteenth century. Its chief claim to notice, however, consists not in its ornamentation, but in the various manuscript entries which have been made in it by the hands of various royal personages.

The volume seems to have belonged to a lady at the court of the first two Tudor monarchs, who with their wives, have written as follows upon the pages exhibited:—

"Madam I pray you Remembre me [your lovyng maistre].

"HENRY R." [HENRY VII.]

"Madam, I pray you forget not me to pray to god that

"I may have part of your prayers.

"ELIZABETH YE QUEENE."

"I think the prayers of a friend be most acceptable vnto

"god, and because I take you for one of myn assured, I

"pray you to remembre in,

"KATHERINA THE QUEENE."

The last two words have been partially obliterated.

Among other later inscriptions is one by the Princess, afterwards Queen Mary:—

"I have red that nobody lyvethe as he shoulde doo, but

"he that followeth vertu, and I reckenynge you to be on of

"them, I pray you to remembre me yn your deuocyons.

"MARYE THE PRINCESS."

The showcase contains also a finely illuminated original Book of Indentures made between King Henry VII. and John Islippe, Abbot of Westminster, for the foundation of the King's Chantry in the Abbey, dated 16th July [1504]; to which are attached five large seals protected by silver cases. Also the original Household Books of Kings Henry VII. and Henry VIII., and a portrait in water colours of Queen Elizabeth, and a portrait also in water colours of Henry VIII. The latter is in the "Guild Book of the Barber Surgeons at York."

## THE LIBRARY CHRONICLE.

## Obituary.

Just as we are going to press we learn with deepest pain that WILLIAM BLADES has passed away. Even had we more time the bewildering sense of loss makes it impossible for us just now to write, as we fain would, of this latest gap in the rank in which, it seems but yesterday, stood Bradshaw, Coxe, Stevens and Blades.

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We regret to have to record the death, on March 24th, 1890, of Mr. Edward Hailstone, F.S.A., of Walton Hall, Wakefield, in his 73rd year. He was a member of the Library Association almost from its commencement, and, although he did not attend the meetings, took a hearty interest in all our proceedings. He was the son of Samuel Hailstone (1768-1851), solicitor, of Bradford, known as the leading authority of his time on the flora of Yorkshire. Hailstone succeeded his father in his profession, as well as in the office of law clerk to the Leeds and Liverpool Canal, which he held for over 40 years. He was a born collector, and from early youth to his last days incessantly added to the literary, artistic, and antiquarian treasures with which he filled Horton Hall, Bradford, and afterwards Walton Hall, universally famous as the ancestral home of Charles Waterton, the naturalist, whose tenderness towards the bird and animal life of his domain was imitated by his successor. The house had been gradually turned by Hailstone into one large museum. The top floor was full of books, to the number of about 40,000 volumes. Among them was the largest Yorkshire collection ever brought together. A mere fraction is described in a "Catalogue of a collection of historical and topographical works and civil war tracts relating to the county of York; tracts concerning Sir Thomas Fairfax, also sermons and other works connected with the county, in the library of Ed. Hailstone, at Horton Hall;" printed for private distribution, 1858, 8vo. It is a matter for congratulation that the Yorkshire collection has been bequeathed to the library of the Dean and Chapter of York. Mr. Hailstone also sought after caricatures, jest books, literary oddities, and works on the fine arts. His china, glass, trinkets, carved oak, armour, and curiosities occupied the staircase, entrance hall and the rooms on the first and second floor. He was a man of remarkable appearance, and to the last walked very upright, so as not to lose an inch of his stature of over six feet. He read his books, and had an immense store of information relating to the history and typography of his county. He was fond of literary and antiquarian talk, and told a good story with a Yorkshire burr.



## Record of Bibliography and Library Literature.

Catalogue of the Guildhall Library of the City of London. With additions to June, 1889. Prepared under the direction of the Library Committee.—*London*, 1889, 8vo. pp. 1137.

This handsome volume may fairly claim to be the most important catalogue of any public library published for some years. Its eleven hundred and thirty-seven pages are printed in double columns, each containing on a rough average, about twenty main titles, and two or three cross-references. The whole number of entries must thus amount to the very respectable total of nearly twenty-five thousand. The catalogue is one of Authors, a Subject-Index, we hope, being already in process of compilation. Under each Author, the arrangement is chronological in the order of the earliest editions which the library happens to possess. In a catalogue of the library of a collector like Mr. Huth or Mr. Locker, where almost every book is a first edition, this plan might be followed with advantage, but it seems very little suited to a working library for which a late edition is practically as good as any other. We note also, that the compilers of the catalogue have hardly been consistent in carrying out their system. As a rule collected editions, complete and incomplete, of an Author's writings are treated (wrongly, we think,) on the same footing as single works, but in the heading Lessing the *Ausgewählte Werke* of 1869 take precedence of single works published in 1860 and 1866. Again in the heading, Shakespeare, facsimilies are arranged by the date of their originals, but this plan is not followed in other headings. The point is a small one, but a critic is naturally more inclined to exact consistency in a method of arrangement which he dislikes, than in one with whose main principles he is fully agreed. Much, however, may be forgiven in consideration of one feature in the catalogue which is most thoroughly and elaborately executed. The setting out of the contents of each volume of series and collections is really admirable, and from the point of view of readers must at once give the catalogue a very high place. In the friendly discussion, however, of a fellow-librarian's work, we may advance a little beyond the rough and ready test as to whether the catalogue will enable the reader to find the work he needs with reasonable expedition. We are thus inclined to make this (on the whole) excellent work a text for a little sermon on "The Danger of Over-refinement in Cataloguing" arising out of an attempt to carry out too rigidly the first of the Library Association's rules. The rule runs: "Title and imprint entries are to be as far as possible in the language of the title, alterations and additions being enclosed in square brackets."

[A. (J. R.)] See APPLETON (John Reed.)  
 ABBOTT (Rev. EDWIN A[BBOTT]), D.D.  
 ABEL, Alderman [WILLIAM.]  
 [ABELL (Henry G.)]

are the entries on the first page of the Catalogue in which we find the square bracket in use, and they suggest to us certain humble queries. If the initials "J. R. A." occur in the book, which the cataloguers attribute to Mr. John Reed Appleton, why should they be in square brackets; if they do not occur in the book, why should the cross-reference be made? The case of Dr. Abbott is a little simpler. His usual signature in his books is Edwin A. Abbott, D.D., and the conscientious cataloguer thinks it necessary to show that he has supplied the BBOTT from the private communications which, previous to Dr.



Abbott's regretted retirement from the City of London School, may naturally be supposed to have taken place between the heads of two great civic institutions. We have only to ask (1) is this refinement needed, and if so (2) has it been consistently carried out? The first question we were prepared to answer with a peremptory negative till we happened to come across the unlucky entry MICHEL (DAN[IEL]) for our old friend Dan or Dominus Michel of Brunne. As the existence of the line—

“Dan Chaucer, well of English undefiled,”

may tempt some future cataloguer to add or alter the name of our first great poet to [Daniel] Geoffrey or Geoffrey [Daniel] or [Daniel] *pur et simple*, we own that the square bracket may sometimes have its uses, and leave this question to our readers. As to the consistency, we doubt if in the *Political Testament of Maximilien Robespierre* the Christian names MAXIMILIEN JOSEPH MARIE ISIDORE DE are to be found in full in the book, but we have not been able to satisfy ourselves on this point, and are content to remain dubious. Our third example, ABEL, Alderman [William], may pass with no further remark than that we fail to see why the worthy Alderman has not as good a right as Dr. Abbott to round brackets as well as square ones. [ABELL (HENRY G.)] is a more serious matter. The entry under his name is *The great bullion robbery of May*, 1855, and we are again uncertain, this time as to whether the work is anonymous, or whether the cataloguers (since we fail to find any cross reference under BULLION ROBBERY, or ROBBERY; we have not looked under MAY !) regard cross references from the catch-word of the title to the supplied name of an anonymous author, as merely discretionary. Such cross-references are undoubtedly given in some cases, and, if so, why not in all?

Other examples of over-refinement to which, at the risk of an appearance of carping, we desire to call attention may be found in the free use of unnecessary titles, and in excessive fondness for the addition of the learned *pseud.* Is it not a waste of space to print the initials M.A., Ph.D., F.R.S.E., and M.R.I.A., to the name of the only Thomas Richardson in the catalogue, and is it not worse than a waste of space to note such a trivial distinction as a Master's degree in the case of so honoured a name as Robert Browning? Again, why should the harmless AMATEUR who so signs himself be accused of deception by the addition of the word *pseud.*, and why should the same slur be cast on Mr. Henry Irving, who, we believe, when he assumed a name already in his family as that by which he chose to call himself, paid his fees like a man, and has as good a right to the name of Irving as the Queen can bestow? But we have asked too many questions already. Satan finds some evil work for all idle hands, and the absence of any other bibliographical works of importance to which we desired to call attention this month has perhaps caused us to play what may well seem the carping critic to an excellent catalogue.

Order of the Classification of Sion College Library, London.  
Second and enlarged edition. By the Rev. W. H. Milman,  
Librarian. London: R. Clay and Sons, Lim., 1889. 8vo,  
pp. xvi., 104.

The classification described in this little volume has been drawn up for the rearrangement in the new building on the Victoria Embankment of the library of Sion College, a collection of about 68,000 volumes, largely consisting of works on theology and history. The main divisions are: A, Theology (including Ecclesiastical History and Canon Law); B, History; C, Philosophy; D, Social Science; E, Natural Science;

F, Useful Arts ; G, Fine Arts ; H, Philology ; K, Literature ; L, Bibliography and Literary History. The appearance of one of these capital letters in a press mark indicates the division in which the book is placed. Numerals from 10 to 100 show section and sub-section, and a decimal point followed by another number point out any further sub-division. The determination of the position of a book among others on the same subject is provided for by marking the volume at the foot of the back with the initial letter of its author's name, or of its subject if no author's name appear on the title page, and with a number which is the equivalent of the three or four letters which follow the initial. This is Mr. Cutter's ingenious contrivance. Although devised for the special requirements of a library chiefly rich in theology and history and comparatively poor in scientific and other literature, this classification is worth the careful study of any person engaged in the arduous labour of classifying a large collection of books. It is by far the most practical of any recent English scheme. Mr. Milman acknowledges his use of Mr. Melvil Dewey's *Decimal Classification*. The first edition of this tractate appeared some years ago ; the present publication has been thoroughly revised and much enlarged. There is now published for the first time an index by Mr. J. P. Edmond, for whose help in this and other matters the compiler says he "cannot be too grateful."

Copinger (W. A., F.S.A.) *The Bibliography of the Five Points and Subjects connected therewith, being a list of Works on Predestination, Election, Reprobation, Original Sin, the Fall, Fate, Providence, Prescience, the Origin of Evil, Grace, Redemption, Free Will, Necessity, Final Perseverance and Assurance, with Biographical and other Notes [in a Treatise on Predestination, Election and Grace, &c.].* London : 1889, royal 8vo.

The titles, which fill 216 double-columned pages, are arranged chronologically, and reference is facilitated by an Index Nominum, in 19 treble-columned pages. A remarkable piece of special bibliography, which must rank with that by Abbott on the Doctrine of a Future Life, and that by Dexter on Congregationalism.

*Bibliography of Arbroath Periodical Literature and Political Broad-sides.* By J. M. McBain, F.S.A.Scot. Arbroath : Brodie and Salmond, 1889. Sm. 4to, pp. 128. Price 2s. 6d.

In this beautifully printed volume Mr. McBain has done, and done well, a service for his town, which if performed for other places, would render the production of a universal bibliography of British periodical literature a practicable scheme. The book is a model of what such a book ought to be, exact and complete, yet eminently readable, which all bibliographies unfortunately are not. In the hands of the author of this work, bibliography is something more than a mere list, which, in the case of periodicals would be quite inadequate. He invests the subject with that life and interest which come from a thorough knowledge of the subject. Arbroath was first blessed with a periodical in 1799, but this publication did not last long, and during the first thirty years or so of the century there was no newspaper in the town. Mr. McBain has filled up this gap, in some measure, by an account of a valuable collection of posters and broadsides, mainly relating to the stirring events which preceded the passing of the Reform Bill. Altogether, we can heartily recommend the book as a capital piece of work.



Dr. Angus continues his researches in Baptist bibliography, and is publishing from time to time in *The Freeman*, the organ of the Baptist denomination, his valuable articles on "Baptist Authors," which we hope will eventually be collected and re-published.

The Rev. Professor Dickson, Curator of Glasgow University Library, has published a statement regarding the library over which he presides, and a "plea for the increase of its resources." The plea is a powerful one, and the comparison he institutes between his own and other universities entirely justifies it. The remedy proposed is to discourage the increase of bursaries, and to induce intending benefactors to bestow their benefactions on the library.

Mr. Paul Leicester Ford announces that he is about to publish by subscription two bibliographies that should command a ready sale on both sides of the Atlantic if they realize the promise of the prospectus. The most interesting is the *Franklin Bibliography*, a volume of 500 pages, containing upwards of 1,500 titles and references. The editor claims that many of his titles have never been catalogued or printed as Franklin's, and that the notes definitely settle some of the disputed questions in his life and writings. The other is *American Bibliography, a check list of bibliographies, catalogues, reference lists, and lists of authorities of American books and subjects*. It contains 1,070 titles, or about 700 more than those given in the bibliographies of Sabin, Jackson or Vallee. The arrangement is by subject under 19 divisions and 150 sub-divisions, with an author index. Both works can be obtained direct from Mr. Ford, at 97, Clark Street, Brooklyn, N.Y.

## Library Notes and News.

*The Editor earnestly requests that librarians and others will send to him early and accurate information as to all local Library doings. The briefest record of facts and dates is all that is required, and all contributions used will be paid for.*

*In course of time the "Library Notes and News" will become of the utmost value to the historian of the Free Library movement, and it is therefore of the highest importance that every paragraph should be vouched for by local knowledge.*

ASHTON-UNDER-LYNE.—The Corporation have accepted an offer of the Trustees of the late Mr. George Heginbottom, of £11,000 to build a Technical School and Free Library. Mr. Heginbottom was a local cotton manufacturer. A sum of £500 which he bequeathed was the nucleus of the fund which established the Free Library.

BIRMINGHAM.—The City Council have authorised the Free Libraries' Committee to purchase a plot of land at the corner of Green Lane and Little Green Lane, near Coventry Road, for the erection thereon of a branch Library.

BRECHIN.—The members of the Brechin Mechanics' Institution have refused to transfer their Library to the Free Library. Mr. W. Anderson has been appointed Clerk and Secretary to the Free Library Committee.

BRIGHTON.—*The Sussex Daily News* of March 26th and 27th, devotes two columns to an interesting review of the new catalogue of the Free Library (The Victoria Lending Library). It is proposed shortly to enlarge the library building.



CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY.—The Financial Board report that the expenses of the new library buildings amount to nearly £15,000. Of this sum £10,400 will be defrayed from the capital of the Hancock bequest, which the Senate decided some time ago should be devoted to this purpose. Dr. Taylor, Master of St. John's, gave last year the sums of £400 towards the statuary with which the building is enriched. The Financial Board propose that of the balance of about £4,000 still unaccounted for, £2,500 shall be defrayed out of the profits of the University Press and the rest out of the common University Fund.

CARDIFF.—Mr. John Ballinger, Librarian of the Cardiff Free Library, who has just completed a new catalogue, has been interviewed by a representative of the *New York Herald*, and the result is given in that paper for March 30th, under the heading of "Making of Catalogues."

CROYDON.—The Free Library was opened without ceremony on March 31st.

DUNDEE.—The *Dundee Advertiser* states that at the meeting of the Free Library Committee on March 13th, it was reported that Mr. Leng, M.P., had been engaged in a correspondence with Mr. Pigott, Comptroller of H.M. Stationery Office, and had succeeded in placing on a satisfactory footing the gift of Blue Books and Parliamentary returns some time since promised to the library. The promise had been kept in a way, but the books sent were several years old, and had lost any interest they ever possessed. Through Mr. Leng's exertions the Stationery Office has been induced to promise gifts of a certain number of Parliamentary publications of local and national interest on their issue, and with the consent of the Department he has been appointed the accredited agent of the Dundee Free Library in London, which will ensure the delivery of these when the subjects they treat of are fresh in the public mind. Mr. Leng proposes to move for a return for the purpose of getting the very inadequate grant of £100 per annum for the issue of these Parliamentary papers to public libraries largely increased. The system which the Comptroller has been induced by Mr. Leng to agree to is better than an indiscriminate sending of large quantities of uninteresting and out of date returns at long intervals. This week fourteen interesting and fresh reports, including that of the Parnell Commission, have been received, and as they arrive they will be placed for handy reference in the reading-room, and kept there so long as the interest in the subjects reported on is sustained.

EDINBURGH.—At the annual meeting of the Faculty of Advocates on January 15th, Mr. Clark, keeper of the library, reported "that the ordinary work of the library during the past year has been satisfactorily overtaken, and that there are no arrears in any of the departments, the cataloguing, arranging, binding, and placing the accessions being kept up to date. During the spring and autumn vacations the special work of examining the books in the library by comparison with the catalogue was actively proceeded with, and there now remain very few volumes to be checked with the slips. This work will probably be finished during the current year. While the slip and duplicate slip catalogues have been kept up to date, an important piece of work in connection with the manuscript catalogue was completed during the year. Hitherto the only catalogue of manuscripts has been in the form of slips, or in separate subject volumes—the latter of which were available for readers' consultation, and necessitated no little labour on the part of those who were anxious to obtain a particular manuscript. All these subject volumes have now been incorporated in one catalogue, in which the entries, after

emendation, have been arranged alphabetically. It is expected that the use of this volume will be of considerable service to readers, and at the same time give relief to the assistants. In connection with the consultation of the manuscripts, Professor Mackinnon, who has for some time been carefully examining the Celtic works in this department belonging to the Faculty and to the Highland and Agricultural Society, lodged for preservation in the library, wrote—"Our collection is of great value, and deserves to be better known and studied than it has hitherto been. For one thing it is ours, and as a Scottish collection it is entitled to particular regard from us. And though a large proportion, especially of the older manuscripts, are in matter and style as much Irish as Scottish, still a considerable number have a distinctively Highland character, which make them of special value. Besides, our manuscripts give many variant readings which are highly prized by scholars and editors; and in several cases valuable additions to the common stock of Gaelic literature." The volumes sent to the binder during the year numbered 2,946, as compared with 2,271 sent in 1888. This increase may be expected to continue so long as publishers issue so extensively the cheap paper-covered works which for some years past have been usurping the place of the regulation three-volume novel. The binding of this ephemeral literature is not allowed to accumulate, as each year's accessions are promptly disposed of before the issues of the following publishing season appear. The bookbinders' accounts also include the binding of a considerable number of foreign publications lying unbound for several years, principally those issued by the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, which is most generous in supplying the Faculty with the valuable literary and scientific volumes printed under its supervision. The list of accessions to the library during 1889 shows an increase of 2,675 over the previous year, the total number of articles received being 27,666. In 1876 the number of articles received was 13,677, so that the above return shows that more than double this number reached the library in 1889."

GLASGOW.—Mr. Barrett is in the midst of his task of transferring the Mitchell Library from the old premises in Ingram Street, to the new buildings in Miller Street, acquired from the Water Trust at a cost of £15,000. There will be in the new library room for 150,000 volumes, and accommodation for 400 readers.

GLASGOW: STIRLING'S AND GLASGOW PUBLIC LIBRARY.—The issue of books from this library during the past year has reached 207,543 volumes, or 10,000 more than the preceding year. The library will celebrate its jubilee next year. At the recent annual meeting, Professor A. C. Bradley, in the course of a short address, referred to the rivalry between the two cities of Liverpool and Glasgow, and remarked that when in Liverpool he was in the habit of saying, "Don't talk about being the second city of the Empire until you have such a University as Glasgow possesses;" and now in Glasgow he would say, "Don't talk about being the second city in the Empire until you have a free library like that in Liverpool." In the absence of such an institution, it was a matter of immense importance in a city such as that to have such an institution as the Stirling Library.

HASTINGS.—The poll for the free library closed on March 7th, and as the voting was open it was evident from the first that the opponents of the scheme had victory on their side. The apathy shown has however been great, for out of 6,534 voters on the list, only 2,522 put in an appearance in the poll room. An official record of the poll gives the numbers as 595 for and 1,927 against.



**HAWARDEN.**—The modest, iron, match-board lined building at Hawarden, which has been erected and furnished with books from Hawarden Castle, by Mr. Gladstone, to be used as a free loan and reference library by the people of the district, has received the name of “St. Deniol’s,” the name of the parish church which stands near it.

**KIRKCALDY.**—The late Mr. Michael Beveridge, who was Provost of Kirkcaldy, has bequeathed £50,000 for a public park, free library, and hall for Kirkcaldy. With what has been already subscribed for the Adam Smith Memorial Hall, the “Lang Toon” should be able to have a splendid group of buildings and a public park, and all endowed too.

**KIRKWALL.**—A plebiscite of the ratepayers of Kirkwall was taken on March 21st as to whether they would adopt the Libraries Acts. In all 497 papers were issued, and of these 299 were returned. The vote stood thus:—For the adoption of the Acts, 265 ; against, 29. Five papers were spoiled.

**LEWISHAM.**—An effort is being made to secure the adoption of the Public Libraries Acts in the parish of Lewisham. The Rev. the Hon. Canon Legge, Vicar of Lewisham, is Chairman of the General Committee, and E. W. Brabrook, Esq., barrister-at-law, Chairman of the Executive Committee. Mr. A. W. Hiscox is Hon. Secretary and Treasurer.

**LONDON: BATTERSEA.**—The Central Library, Lavender Hill, S.W., was opened by the Right Hon. A. J. Mundella, M.P., on March the 26th. The new building, which has been erected from the designs of Mr. E. W. Mountford, A.R.I.B.A., has already been described in these pages (April, 1889), and is generally considered a well-planned and workable structure. The Library contains in the lending department 10,115 volumes, of which a printed catalogue is published, and in the reference department 6,435 volumes, with a manuscript catalogue on cards. The reference library and reading rooms provide accommodation for 300 readers at one time, and there is accommodation for the storage of about 135,000 volumes. The inhabitants of the parish have lost no time in availing themselves of the facilities thus provided, and within three weeks from the opening 3,000 persons had been enrolled as borrowers from the lending department.

At a meeting which was held at the Battersea Public Baths, in connection with the opening proceedings, Lord Rosebery delivered a thoughtful speech on the rapid growth of reading habits among the middle and lower classes, and on the position and functions of free public libraries, by means of which he anticipated that the “thumb-mark of the artisan” would now be imprinted on the literature of the age, and would ultimately become the chief, if not the only, criterion of merit and utility. This rather optimistic opinion served for a day or two as a sort of literary shuttlecock between Lord Rosebery’s supporters on the press and some of their opponents.

**LONDON: BRITISH MUSEUM.**—The Trustees have recently acquired, by purchase, a tract of great bibliographical value. It is a hitherto unknown specimen of printing by Caxton at Westminster in 1483, and contains six letters in Latin, which passed in 1482-83, between Pope Sixtus IV., and Giovanni Mocenigo, Doge of Venice, respecting the war with Hercules, Duke of Ferrara. They were edited by Petrus Carmelianus, an Italian scholar resident in England, but of course their chief claim to interest arises from the fact that they were printed at Caxton’s



press. The copy purchased, which is supposed to be unique, is exhibited to the public in one of the show cases devoted to early specimens of English Typography in the King's library.

LONDON: CAMBERWELL.—The free Library was opened in temporary premises, 18, High Street, Peckham, on March 10th. Mr. Henry Ogle, formerly of Southwark, has been appointed sub-librarian of the Camberwell Free Public Libraries.

LONDON: CLERKENWELL.—The foundation stone of the Free Library in Skinner Street, Clerkenwell, was laid on March 8th, by Mr. William Masterman, Master of the Skinners' Company. We have already announced that the site has been presented by the Company. The *Daily Graphic* of March 10th contains an engraving of the elevation of the building.

LONDON: HAMMERSMITH.—Sir J. Lubbock, M.P., on March 19, opened the Hammersmith Free Library, situated in a fine old mansion in Ravenscourt Park. The library at present contains 8,270 volumes, of which 6,870 are in the lending, and 1,406 in the reference department. The Rev. J. H. Snowden, chairman of the Library Commissioners, presided. Sir John Lubbock maintained that we scarcely did justice to our vestries and local bodies, and that London had greatly advanced in self-government. The inhabitants of the metropolis had great difficulties to contend against, but in four important respects—health, pauperism, education, and free libraries—they could fairly stand comparison with other large towns. In the matter of free libraries good progress was being made. The only objection ever raised to them was on the score of expense. But we did not grudge the expense of schools, and the free library was the school for the grown up. Moreover, he doubted whether either the one or the other was really an expense. A great part, at any rate, of what we spent in books we saved in prisons and police. Only a fraction of the crime of the country arose from deliberate wickedness or irresistible temptation; the great sources of crime were drink and ignorance. If we could not yet, perhaps, derive the full possible benefit from free libraries, still they had certainly effected much. The object of free libraries was not to raise one above another, but to elevate all alike—to enable every one, in the words of Masson, to take “the stately care of his own worth.” He could not doubt that that institution would add to the brightness and the interest of their lives. We did not make them half as happy as we might. A library was indeed a true paradise. It was delightful to think of the many happy hours which were in store for them, and he was, therefore, very glad to have been permitted to open this institution, and to be associated with a ceremony which he was sure would often be looked back upon with gratitude and satisfaction.

LONDON: PEOPLE'S PALACE.—The subscription for a memorial to the late Wilkie Collins, which has now closed, amounts to £307 18s. 6d. The Committee decided that the money should be presented to the People's Palace at Mile End, to form a “Wilkie Collins Memorial Library,” which will consist of novels.

LONDON: THE CHURCH HOUSE.—The Library Committee—the Provost of Eton, the Master of Charterhouse, the Principal Librarian of the British Museum, and the Principal of King's College—have been engaged at the Church House upon a classification of its already extensive library. Nearly 9,000 volumes have been received, including Dean

Alford's famous patristic collection, and it is proposed to supplement these by the purchase of a number of modern works.

LOUGHTON, ESSEX.—The Fifth Annual Report and Statement of Accounts of the Lopping Hall library shews that over 250 volumes have been added during the past year (1889). The turn-over for the year was 4,299, or an average of 82 per week. In 1888 it was 76. Members' subscriptions amounted to £44 19s. 10d.; disbursements, £41 11s. 8d. The population of Loughton is just over 3,000. The library has free quarters in the hall erected at the close of the Epping Forest Arbitration, and the management is voluntary.

MANCHESTER : OWENS COLLEGE.—A fund is being raised to secure for the Owens College the law library of the late Professor Muirhead, of Edinburgh. The Library (1,800 volumes) forms, it is said, the most valuable collection of books on Roman law, Continental law, and the history of law, that is to be found in this country.

MANSFIELD, NOTTS.—The ratepayers of this town of about 14,000 inhabitants adopted the Public Libraries Acts on Saturday, March 30th, by an overwhelming majority. The rate will realize about £200 a year.

NOTTINGHAM.—The Trustees of the British Museum have given to the Nottingham Public Library a collection of about eleven hundred volumes of Parliamentary Papers. A room has been devoted to these, and the Patent Publications. A list of works in the Nottinghamshire Collection in the Nottingham Free Public Reference Library is now being printed. It is arranged in chronological order, and will be provided with an index of names. A catalogue of the collection, then a small one, was published as far back as 1872. Nottingham was well to the front in the formation of a library of local literature. The library of the People's Hall—an endowed library and reading-room—has been removed to a more commodious and convenient apartment. A new catalogue is sadly needed.

SWINTON, BERWICKSHIRE.—A Free Library and Reading Room has been opened in the village of Swinton, the institution having been established by a bequest of the late Mr. Alan Swinton, Swinton House. For some years Mr. Swinton had provided a Reading Room in the village, and at his death he bequeathed £2,000, his Library, consisting of 721 volumes, and the house in which the Reading Room had been carried on to Trustees for behoof of the village. A Parish Library has been amalgamated with Mr. Swinton's Library, increasing the number of books to 1232.

THURSO.—Mr. Campbell, the librarian, has resigned his appointment after fifteen years' service.

WIGAN.—Mr. George L. Campbell, honorary member of the Wigan Public Library Committee, and Mr. H. T. Folkard, librarian of Wigan, have been elected honorary members of the Committee of the Free Library at Hindley, Lancashire. A 2d. rate is about to be levied in Wigan, power having been obtained to do so in a local act last session. At the same time the Voluntary Rate and Subscription Department are to be discontinued.

YORK.—The late Mr. Edward Hailstone, F.S.A., of Walton Hall, near Wakefield, has bequeathed to the York Minster Library his unrivalled collection of books, manuscripts, and prints illustrating the county of York.

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An unfortunate accident compels us to leave over till next month an account of the formation of the Midland Librarians' Association, which took place at Nottingham recently.

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In connection with the Plantin tercentenary, which will be celebrated next year at Antwerp, there will be a "Book Conference," which will be divided into three sections. In the first matters relating to printing and the illustration, binding, and preservation of books will be discussed. The second section will take charge of such matters as copyright, cost of transport, Customs duties, &c. The third section will consider the organization of public libraries, methods of cataloguing, and systems of international exchange. To this section will be committed the task of devising some form of mutual guarantee between different Governments, so that objects stolen from public collections shall not be purchased by the directors of institutions of the same kind in other countries.

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The authorities of the Toronto University have issued an appeal to Library Committees, and others, to help them to replace the books destroyed at the recent fire at the University. Mr. Archer Baker, European traffic agent of the Canadian Pacific Railway, states that that company will have much pleasure in carrying, free of charge, from Quebec or Montreal to Toronto, books which may be contributed. Mr. Baker offers to furnish full information as to the mode of shipping, &c., in answer to any communications addressed to him at 7, James Street, Liverpool.

## **Library Catalogues and Reports.**

Birkenhead. Borough of Birkenhead.—33rd Annual Report of the Committee of the Birkenhead Free Public Library, 1888-9, pp. 16.

The daily average issue from the Lending Library was 502 vols. against 488 in 1887-8. The issues were 148,703 vols. ; and from the Reference Library 106,416 vols., being 24,766 works less than the issues of the immediately preceding year—the result of improvement in the state of the labour market. The Lending and Reference Libraries contain respectively 31,947 and 10,722 vols. making an aggregate collection of 42,719 vols. There were 27,737 vols. of Juvenile Literature circulated. The debt has been reduced by £300 during the year. The year's expenditure was £1443.

West Bromwich Free Libraries.....Catalogue of the Lending Library. Fourth Edition.....Compiled by D. Dickinson, Librarian. Price ninepence. Oldbury...1888. Royal 8vo, pp. viii., 1-169.

This is a dictionary catalogue in half measure, and is carefully compiled and printed. The contents of many works are well set out ; and the stories which occur in periodicals are catalogued under authors and titles. Hyphens are employed when the titles following them do not always indicate the same subject as the immediately pre-



ceding title. There should always be a distinction between title and subject headings, by repetitions instead of hyphens. The compositor has been too free in the use of capitals, as usual. There are several leaves of advertisements, which enable this excellent catalogue to be sold at a very moderate price.

Stoke. Borough of Stoke-upon-Trent.—Tenth Annual Report of the Committee of the Public Free Library and Museum, 1888-9, pp. 23.

There are 8,602 vols. in the libraries, and the total issues during the year were 43,855 vols. Gifts of books were numerous, and there was a donor of £50 to the funds. A trip realized £25 profit. The year's income was £420. Mr. Caddie, jun., is librarian.

Wednesbury. Borough of Wednesbury. Eleventh Report of the Free Library Committee, for the fifteen months, ending March 25th, 1889, pp. 28.

The Lending Library contains 8,957 vols., and the Reference Library 1,766. During the year 186 vols. were added. The issues were 70,696 from the Lending Library, and 5,976 in the Reference Library, making an aggregate of 76,672 vols. An increased income is much needed. The year's expenditure was £499. The report is a creditable piece of work.

Borough of St. Marylebone. Report of the Marylebone Free Public Library Association for the year ending March 31st, 1890. pp. 16.

The Marylebone Free Public Library Association was formed in 1887 to promote the establishment of Free Public Libraries in this extensive London borough. After a vigorous canvas, (the sum of £8,000 being conditionally promised in voluntary subscriptions), the vote of the ratepayers was taken in April, 1888, when the proposal to adopt the Acts was negatived by a large majority. The Association, however, gallantly refused to abandon its object, and with a view of educating the local public mind, collected subscriptions and established a free library and reading-room at Lisson Grove. The present report is chiefly concerned with an account of the work done here. The news-room was opened in August last by Lord Charles Beresford, and in October the library departments were added. There are 2,730 volumes in the lending library, and 817 in the reference department. During the 147 days on which the library has been open, 12,544 vols. have been issued. The number of attendances in the news-room has been 112,191; giving a daily average of 488. Encouraged by the great success of this library, a fresh subscription list has been opened and sufficient funds have been acquired to justify the establishment of a second library in another part of the borough. The new library, situated in Mortimer Street, is to be opened on May 1st by the Duke of Fife, and with such an imposing list of supporters, not only should the requisite maintenance funds be forthcoming, but at the next attempt Marylebone should be assured of the advantages to be derived from the adoption of the Acts.

### Library Association Record.

The last monthly meeting of the Library Association was held at the Rooms, 20, Hanover Square, on Monday, April 14th, at 8 p.m. The President, Mr. Maunde Thompson in the chair. Mr. Frank Debenham, L.C.C.,

and Mr. J. W. Jarvis were proposed for election at the next meeting. Sir John Lubbock's Free Public Libraries' Amendment Bill was under discussion, in which the President, Messrs. Debenham, Gilbert, Jones, Inkster, Mason and Tedder took part. On the motion of Mr. MacAlister, the discussion was adjourned to Thursday, May 1st, at 5 p.m., to enable Sir John Lubbock to be present.

At the last meeting of the Council, a suggested programme of entertainments and excursions for the next Annual Meeting at Reading, was submitted and approved. If the Conference is favoured with fine weather, a most enjoyable meeting is assured. The dates fixed upon are Sept. 17th, 18th and 19th.

The next monthly meeting of the Association will be held, by invitation, in the Library of the People's Palace on Monday, May 12th, at 8 p.m., when Miss M. S. R. James, the librarian, will read a paper on the People's Palace Library and its Work.

### Correspondence.

#### THE BRITTLE QUALITY OF PAPER USED BY PUBLISHERS.

DEAR SIR,—In some of our Free Public Libraries, the question of replacing worn-out stock is, under the most favourable conditions, a serious one to deal with. As the borrowers increase in numbers year by year, the wear and tear to which the books are consequently subjected become greater. In many cases the money which might, and ought to be spent in purchasing new books, is absorbed in replacing worn-out stock. This state of things is bad enough, but it is considerably aggravated by the fact that within the last few years some of our publishers have issued their books (especially the cheaper standard novels), printed upon a paper which is certainly thick and nice to handle, but which will scarcely bend without cracking. To a person buying such a book for his own use, this is not of much moment; but when the same book is handled by a few ordinary library borrowers, the result is simply disastrous. The leaves soon drop off in autumnal showers, although the binding may be perfect and the stitching beyond reproach. On the other hand books printed on flexible paper, even though the paper be of cheap quality, are found to resist the rough usage of the lending library, better than those printed on thicker and more brittle paper. Generally speaking, our own experience shows the average life of the former to be between two and three years, while the latter barely run twelve months.

It will be evident from the foregoing, that the librarians have a case for the consideration of the publishers, and I would suggest to those firms who issue our standard novels whether it would not be wise to use a more flexible paper for this purpose, or at least give their customers the option of the two kinds. It will probably resolve itself into a question of cost, although I should imagine the qualities of brittleness or flexibility exist in both cheap and expensive papers. Nor need the publishers fear any loss of trade by this arrangement, for if the suggestions were adopted the money saved by this means would be available for the purchase of new books; at least it would be so in our own case, and there is no reason to suppose it would be different in other libraries.

Yours faithfully,

BUTLER WOOD.

*Bradford Free Library, 26th March, 1890.*



# PUBLIC LIBRARIES: MONTHLY RETURN OF ISSUES, &c.

MARCH, 1890

Name and No. of Libraries in operation.	REFERENCE LIBRARIES.					LENDING LIBRARIES.					
	No. of Vols.	Issue for Month.	Days Open.	Daily Average.	Sunday. Daily Average Attendance.	No. of Borrowers.	No. of days Books lent.	No. of Vols.	Issue for Month.	Days Open.	Daily Average.
Allca 1 .....	500	29	26	1	...	1,600	7 & 14	7,000	4,312	26	166
Barrow 1 .....	2,307	1,472	26	56	...	2,380	14	13,262	9,823	26	377
Battersea 1 ...	...	...	...	...	...	3,636	14	5,532	8,269	25	330
Birkenhead 1	11,288	10,853	26	417	...	6,104	7, 10 & 14	32,997	15,571	26	599
Bradford 9 ...	23,444	8,271	31	267	1,456	10,383	7, 10 & 14	45,548	41,583	26	1,599
Brighton 1 ...	12,550	3,136	26	121	...	10,341	14	19,606	10,621	26	409
Bristol 6 .....	15,412	22,325	30	744	...	18,654	7	58,769	44,503	27½	1,618
Cardiff 1 .....	13,324	1,212	26	46	...	6,304	14	17,265	11,868	26	456
Chelsea 2 .....	4,346	2,980	31	96	561	1,162	14	4,451	5,229	24	217
Chester 1 .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	10	4,690	4,871	26	187
Clapham 1 ...	620	642	22	29	...	3,504	14	4,531	7,949	22	361
Clerkenwell 1	1,278	...	...	...	...	2,900	15	8,752	7,638	26	294
Fulham 1 .....	2,394	285	22	13	242	5,643	14	5,878	10,483	22	476
Hamm's'th 1	1,410	151	8	19	...	1,310	8	6,880	2,001	8	250
Hanley 1 .....	2,085	677	26	26	...	1,901	7, 10	5,744	6,637	26	255
Harrogate 1 ...	179	37	26	...	...	3,112	14	4,209	8,311	26	319
Kensington 3	Lending	1,541	31 & 27	50	57	...	14	13,941	11,242	22	510
Leeds 27 .....	39,608	10,023	26	385	...	21,259	14	45,867	56,092	17	1,356½
Leicester 3 ...	9,799	2,843	25	113	...	7,400	7	22,677	22,227	20 & 26	982
Marylebone 1	700	1,024	26	40	131	429	7 & 14	3,800	1,530	26	59
Norwich 1 .....	6,686	...	...	...	300	3,834	14	12,702	8,136	18	452²
Paddington 1	3,184	304	31	10	73	...	...	...	...	...	...
Portsmouth 1	2,990	474	26	22	...	11,729	7 & 14	17,994	24,866	26	956
Preston 1 .....	...	...	...	...	...	15,295	14	16,320	9,387	26	361
Reading 1 .....	3,617	663	26	25	...	7,040	14	15,740	14,914	24	621
Richmond 1 ...	7,328	712	22	32	...	2,920	7	9,280	9,432	22	429
Rochdale 1 ...	12,337	8,281	31	267	650	6,111	14	29,704	13,506	26	519
St. Helens 2	3,696	463	26	17	521	2,000	7	12,175	10,572	26	406
Sheffield 5 ..	12,961	3,563	26	137	...	14,269	7 & 14	79,937	43,752	26	1,683
Tynemouth 1	4,206	1,212	22	55	...	3,959	10	22,189	12,513	22	569
Wandsworth 1	3,679	236	22	10	...	3,400	7	7,718	7,811	22	354
Westminster 2	Lending	6,393	24	266	...	3,883	14	21,769	7,229	24	301
Yarmouth 2 ...	2,185	186	11	17	...	2,375	7, 14	8,759	5,082	11	467

¹ Central only. Closed nine days for stock-taking.

² Juvenile department worked in schools. 3,667 vols. ; 4,061 issues.

Librarians who contribute to this table are reminded that their returns should be sent in by the 14th of each month to Mr. J. D. Brown, 19, Tysoe Street, Clerkenwell, W.C.

Editorial Communications and Books for Review should be addressed to the Editor, 20, Hanover Square, W.—Advertisements and Letters on Business to the Publishers, 62, Paternoster Row, E.C.

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## William Blades.

IT is but a few weeks since we heard with great regret of the deaths of M. Madden, the brilliant though eccentric French bibliographer, and of M. Campbell, the learned librarian of the Royal Library of the Hague and the historian of the early typography of the Netherlands ; but we have since suffered a severer loss at home in the death of Mr. William Blades, which took place on the morning of Sunday, April 27th. For some time many friends had seen with concern the increasing ill-health with which he was troubled, but he had latterly seemed to be gaining strength, so that his comparatively sudden death came as an unexpected shock.

He was born at Clapham in 1824, and educated at Clapham Grammar School, and on leaving school he entered his father's firm as an apprentice, becoming a partner shortly after his apprenticeship had expired. This is not the place to speak of his eminent business qualities and the high position to which he attained in his profession, or of the valuable services which he rendered to the city and to his ward, but rather to consider the literary side of his work, and examine the various books which he wrote upon early printing—a subject which, from the first, had proved an irresistible attraction, and had engrossed his leisure moments.

The productions of Caxton—England's first printer—seem especially to have engaged his attention, and he spared no trouble in collecting facts or collating copies of his books in public and private libraries at home and abroad, with a view of ultimately publishing a full history of his life and work. His intention was first made known publicly in the preface to the reprint of the *Gouvernaille of Helthe*, in 1858, where he wrote as follows:—"From the commencement of the present century the typographical works of William Caxton have excited a steadily increasing interest, yet have they never been accurately and systematically described. To remedy in some degree this deficiency in our bibliography has been for a considerable period my ambition."

The collection and preparation of the materials for this work must have brought Mr. Blades in contact with many other

students interested in the subject, and it was at this time that he made the acquaintance of Henry Bradshaw, a friendship which lasted through life, and was productive of the greatest advantages. Mr. Prothero draws a charming picture of one, if not the first, of their meetings. "In September of the former year (1860) Mr. Blades paid a visit to Cambridge, taking with him the first two sheets of his book in type, and the rest in manuscript. It was a fine, warm afternoon, and after dinner—they dined earlier in those days than now—they went down, as Bradshaw was fond of doing, into the college garden. A bottle of wine was ordered out, and there and then, without moving from the place, Mr. Blades read the whole of the historical portion of the book to his willing listener, who frequently interposed criticisms and suggestions of the most useful kind." The results of these suggestions are found in the second volume, and there is no doubt much was gained from a comparison of views formed from independent research.

In 1863 the *Life and Typography of William Caxton, England's First Printer*, was completed. It was undoubtedly the most important book of its kind which had ever appeared in England, and it was welcomed at once by all bibliographers, who were unanimous in their opinion of its worth. Mr. Blades' practical knowledge of the art of printing gave him a greater grasp over many typographical problems than had been possessed by previous writers, and enabled him to avoid their mistakes. To say the book is absolutely without faults would be to say too much, but it is far in advance of anything previously published; and being free from useless conjecture and controversy, and embodying for the most part the result of personal observation, it is still the most correct and valuable of our larger bibliographies.

Another excellent point was the wealth of facsimiles which for the first time in an English book were accurate. The whole book to a worker left nothing to be desired, and gave sufficient information to enable him to form his own conclusions, or work out results on his own principles. As Bradshaw said of it:—"Where I differ in my dates or conclusions from Mr. Blades, it is only the result of several years' work upon the subject which his own incomparable monograph has rendered capable of being satisfactorily studied."

In 1877, the book was revised and republished in one volume, for the stimulus which had been given to the study of early English printing by the former publication had resulted in the

detection of mistakes and in new discoveries. The date and sequence of many of the books were altered, so that this volume was rather a new work than a new edition. This edition of 1877 was again, in 1882, republished in a still cheaper form, and attained for that kind of book an unexpected circulation.

Another little book on Caxton was issued in 1870, *How to tell a Caxton, with some Hints Where and How the same might be Found*. Like the larger book, it is lavishly illustrated, and contains in a portable form a great deal of information.

In the preface to the facsimile of the *Book of St. Albans* a short bibliography is given of the schoolmaster printer, but the books are not described at any length, nor does the essay aim at completeness. The other early English presses Mr. Blades left entirely alone, though he seems at various times to have meditated a large work on the subject, similar to that on Caxton. He had collected a large number of notes about Machlinia, and at one time expressed to Bradshaw his intention of writing a history of the early Oxford press, for which he had also collected some material, but the design was never carried out. Putting aside the little 'jeu d'esprit,' *Shakespeare and Typography*, Mr. Blades ventured only once into lighter writing, publishing in 1880 *The Enemies of Books*. The author treats in a light and pleasant style of the various enemies, from fire to collectors, who conspire to destroy books. In spite of the great success which the volume attained, the experiment was never repeated, and Mr. Blades is one of the very few authors who, having written a successful book of this kind, was content to rest satisfied.

In 1883 was published the *Numismata Typographica*, another very important work. It was first brought out in the *Printers' Register*, to which Mr. Blades was a frequent contributor, and shortly after its appearance was translated into at least two foreign languages. The important light thrown on many printers and printing offices by the medals struck in their honour, led the author to form his unrivalled collection, of which the volume is, for the most part, a detailed description. It is sad to think that the author died but a very short time before the issue of a medal which was to have commemorated his own fifty years of business life.

Space forbids a detailed examination of all Mr. Blades' work, which fills many volumes, but it would be wrong to pass over without mention the various excellent facsimiles and reprints which he edited and published. It was his desire always to



advance knowledge by putting materials in the hands of students, and the work which he did of this kind was always of the best.

To the trade journals he was from the first a welcome contributor, and in them much of his work was first published. To the weekly papers he occasionally contributed letters announcing new discoveries, or correcting errors in the statements of others, which he did with a gentleness and tact that entirely disarmed resentment.

In his capacity as a printer, as well as an author, he often assisted the cause of bibliography, and had it not been for his friendly aid, several modern books could never have appeared. It was nothing to him if he did not agree with the theories advocated in them; they were always an attempt to further our knowledge, and as such he was ready to help them.

Mr. Blades' interest in everything connected with printing was fully shown by the Caxton Exhibition of 1877. It is not too much to say that its success, no less than its existence, were owing to his untiring efforts, and it is impossible to over-estimate the care and trouble which he took on its behalf. He was an active member of the Library Association, and had on several occasions read papers at their meetings. The work upon which he was engaged at the time of his death was a revision of some of these papers, with a view to publication in a series of *Bibliographical Miscellanies*. Of these the first, on *Signatures*, appeared in February, and the remainder were so far advanced that it is hoped they may shortly be published. The amount of work expended upon the first is out of all proportion to its size, and shows with what undiminished zeal he continued to prosecute his bibliographical researches.

Mr. Blades' work as a whole is marked by its accuracy and the absence of controversy. He was a searcher after fact, and a writer who depended upon fact. For this reason, perhaps, he kept aloof from the endless and often bitter controversies on the inventor and birthplace of printing, though on one occasion, certainly, he went so far as to write some articles upon the subject, confining himself rather to a criticism of what had been written than to any independent research. But Mr. Blades' best work was always sensible rather than logical, and he preferred a plain statement of fact to the "subtle impertinences of the schools." No doubt his early acquaintance with Bradshaw strengthened this feeling, and they stood together as founders of a new system, under which their work became an exact science in place of mere *dillettante* trifling.

The real teaching of these two men seems as yet little understood or appreciated, but their work is too good and too valuable not to have a lasting influence in the future. Mr. Blades was the link between the old and the new schools; he was brought up under the old, but deserted it to found the new, and his work bears the impress of both.

It will always be impossible for those who had the pleasure of knowing Mr. Blades to dissociate from the remembrance of his knowledge the remembrance of his kindness and sympathy. It was a pleasure to him to assist any fellow-worker, and he did so fully, with none of that jealousy in work which is, unhappily, far from rare. If a friend made any discovery in the subjects in which he was interested, he was just as pleased as though he had made it himself; it was always so much addition to the common knowledge. As a collector, too, he was very generous, and would readily lend his choicest books from the complete and valuable typographical library which he had gathered round him in his home at Sutton.

His time and knowledge seemed always at the service of his friends, and his patience inexhaustible. Whether he was pointing out variations in type to an expert, or explaining to the ignorant beginner the difference between a quarto and a folio, he did it with equal thoroughness, and if it was a trouble, it was never allowed to appear so. To all fellow-workers his stores of knowledge were open, and the value of his opinion was heightened by the grace with which it was given.

D.



## Frederick Egmond, an English Fifteenth Century Stationer.

THE year 1493, either by chance or from some cause of which we are at present ignorant, seems to have been an important period in the history of printing in England. After 1486 all the English presses had with one exception ceased working; the printers at Oxford and St. Albans and Machlinia in London, had disappeared, and only Caxton at Westminster was left; but in 1493 appeared the first dated books from the presses of Wynkyn de Worde, Caxton's successor, and Richard Pynson the successor of Machlinia. But a stronger sign of the revival of printing and of an increased demand for books was afforded by the appearance in England during this year of two important and wealthy foreign booksellers, Frederick Egmond and Nicolas Lecompte, who offered for sale books printed at their expense in Italy and France.

The name of Frederick Egmond appears for the first time in the colophon of the York Breviary of 1493:—"Singulari cura ac diligentia impensisque Friderici Egmundt bene revisum emendatumque; feliciter est explicitum. Impressum venetiis, per Johannem de Landoia dictus Hertzog; limpidissimis, ut cernitur, caracteribus, &c." The book is an octavo of 464 leaves, and one copy only is known, now in the Bodleian [Gough Missals 6].

Egmond during the first few years of his business employed no press but that of Hertzog, and we do not know of any books by this printer produced for any other English bookseller, so that as regards liturgical books for English use known to us now only from fragments, we are justified, I think, in attributing to Egmond as bookseller, such as we can determine from their type to have been printed by Hertzog.

Two fragments of different editions of the Sarum Breviary, printed by this printer about 1493-4 are known, both in octavo. The earlier of the two is in the library of St. John's College, Cambridge, the other in the library at Lambeth Palace; of the former eight leaves are known, of the latter four, and in both cases they have been used to line the bindings of books. In the library of Corpus Christi College, Oxford, is another fragment, luckily containing the title, which may belong to the



second of the above-mentioned editions, or be a portion of a third edition. Like the others, this fragment has been used to line the boards of a binding.

This number of editions points to a large demand for service books, and no doubt Egmond's venture was successful, for we find him in the following year, 1494, in company with another stationer, Gerard Barrevelt, employing the Venice press to print for him two editions of the Sarum Missal, one in folio issued in August, the other in octavo issued in December.

The folio edition is a book of extraordinary rarity, only two imperfect copies being known, one in the University Library of Bologna, and another which was bought by Quaritch from Mr. Sherbrooke's collection. The title-page and colophon of a third copy are amongst the Bodleian fragments, and various odd leaves are in other collections. Hain [11422] quotes a copy which he had not seen and which wanted the title.

On the title-page we find the device of Egmond and Barrevelt, which though of a very ordinary type is remarkable for the delicacy of its execution. It consists of a circle divided by a perpendicular line produced beyond the top of the circle, the projection being crossed by two bars. In the left hand division of the circle are the initials and mark of Egmond, in the right hand those of Barrevelt. The whole is enclosed in a square frame and the background is filled with arabesque floral designs. The appearance and execution of this device and its manifest likeness to Hertzog's, point to its having been cut in Venice.

The octavo Missal of 1494 is a much commoner book at least a dozen copies being known; but it is a very beautiful little volume, and contains perhaps the most gracefully designed initial letters to be found in any early printed book. On the last page is the mark of Hertzog, and below it the inscription "Fredericus Egmont me fieri fecit." There is no mention of Barrevelt in the colophon, so that perhaps this edition was undertaken by Egmond alone; the absence of the double device which had been used in the folio edition favours this conjecture.

In 1495, Hertzog printed another Sarum Breviary in 16°, for Egmond and Barrevelt, whose double device is found in it, although Egmond's name alone appears in the colophon. The *Pars Estivalis* only is known of this edition, and of this there is but one copy which is in the Bodleian [Gough Missals 43]; a few leaves are in the library of Brazenose College, Oxford.

This book ends the series of Egmondts's Venice printed books so far as we know, but considering their extraordinary rarity and the fact that several editions are known only from fragments rescued from the bindings of books, we may hope and reasonably expect that evidences of other editions may be found.

After 1495, we lose sight of Egmondts till 1499. He was then no longer associated with Gerard Barreveldt, but was in partnership with a man whose name given in a Latin form was Peter post Pascham. It seems to have been a common custom with printers and booksellers to Latinize their names when they issued Latin books, or books with Latin colophons, and this habit has been a fruitful source of confusion to bibliographers. The striking instance mentioned in one of Mr. Bradshaw's papers will be familiar to most readers—the identity of Godfried van der Haghen with Godfridus Dumæus. In the case of Peter post Pascham, all ingenuity seems unavailing, and no reasonable guess has yet been made at his real name.

These two stationers employed Pynson to print for them an edition of the *Medulla grammaticæ* or *Promptorium puerorum*, a folio of 116 leaves, and one of the ugliest books which issued from Pynson's press.

After 1499, we lose sight of Egmondts as a publisher for a considerable time, but we have evidence of his industry in another branch of his trade, that of bookbinding, which was considered at that time part of the business of a bookseller.

Two panel stamps bearing his mark or name are known, and both seem from their appearance to have been cut about the beginning of the sixteenth century. The first has as its central ornament the Tudor rose, and round it are vine leaves in an oblong compartment; round the whole is an arabesque floral border containing the initials and mark of Egmondts. This design was common at the time, there being several other panels almost identical, one of which was used by Pynson. The second and more important panel is an almost exact copy of the device of Philippe Pigouchet, the Paris printer. A "wild" man and woman standing on either side of a tree covered with some kind of fruit, bear in one hand flowering boughs, while with the other they assist in supporting a shield suspended by a belt from the branches above them upon the shield are Egmondts's mark and initials. The device of the wild man and woman was for some reason very popular at this time and for a short period afterwards: it was used, as Dr.



Dickson has pointed out in his *Introduction of Printing into Scotland*, by Bumgart at Cologne, and at Edinburgh, by Walter Chepman and Thomas Davidson. It was used by Pigouchet and other Parisian printers, and by Peter Treveris, who printed in Southwark at the sign of the "Wodows," and the references to it in colophons are very numerous. This panel of Egmond's not only bears his mark and initials, but is inscribed on the lower margin "Fredericus Egmond me f[ecit]." Only two specimens are known, one in the library at Caius College, the other in Corpus Christi College, Cambridge: the former is in excellent preservation, as clear as when it was first finished, the latter is so rubbed as to be almost undecipherable. Both these books are ornamented on the reverse with a panel containing three rows of arabesques of foliage surrounded by a border having ribbons in the upper and lower portion inscribed with the names of the four Evangelists. The dates of the two books above-mentioned are c. 1505 and 1521, but the appearance and style of the stamps used point to their having been cut about 1500. Binders' stamps, being formed of strong material, were practically indestructible, so that we often find them in use long after their original owner was dead.

It is curious that bibliographers should have so persistently neglected the study of stamped bindings, since they are often of the greatest importance as the means of supplying valuable evidence. When they have not been tampered with they are generally lined with printed fragments, often of great rarity, and still more valuable for the light they throw on the history of the individual book. Mr. Bradshaw, at the end of his memorandum (No. 6), *On a Fragment of the Fifteen Oes*, quotes a few of the many important results that he had arrived at from the examination of old bindings, but as he says there, "it is a new field of enquiry altogether," and it is still almost unworked.

During the first twenty years of the sixteenth century, Egmond entirely disappears, but there are a series of books, printed at Paris about the end of this interval, which were evidently produced for him. Perhaps the earliest is an edition of Virgil, a copy of which is in the British Museum [c. 48. a]. It is a 16° (not a 24° as stated in the catalogue), of 288 leaves (a—z, A-N<sup>8</sup>), and contains a number of full-page woodcuts, inserted, as the preface tells us, for the purpose of aiding the memory of students, and as a further assistance, the names



the various characters are inserted beside each of them in capital letters. These illustrations strongly resemble in style those produced at a little earlier period at Strasburg, and are entirely unlike the Paris cuts of the time. This edition is mentioned by Brunet [ed. 1863, v. 1279], who quotes a copy in the catalogue of the collection of M. Riva de Milan, sold in 1856 for 255 francs, which is probably the same copy as that now in the Museum. In addition to his description he gives a facsimile of the device from the last leaf, calling it, however, that of an "imprimeur inconnu." It is almost identical with and evidently copied from that used in the 1494 Missal, except that the dead background of the original is here heightened with dots in the French style, and the foliage slightly more elaborated. Egmond's mark and initials are the same as in the original, but Barrevelt's mark is gone, and its place taken by a new mark and the initials I. B.; with our present knowledge, however, it is impossible to determine to whom these initials refer.

Brunet mentions also an edition of Richard Maidston's Sermons, entitled *Dormi Secure* bearing the same mark, printed at Paris in 1527, 8°, but he does not refer to any copy.

In the British Museum [627. a. 3] is a copy of another edition, printed at Paris in 1520. It is an 8° of 316 leaves in two divisions. The first, containing the Sermones de Tempore, has 124 leaves (a-p<sup>8</sup>, q<sup>4</sup>); the second, containing the Sermones de Sanctis, has 192 leaves (a-z & <sup>8</sup>). Egmond's mark is upon the title page, and below it we find, "Venundantur Parrhisius in vico sancti Jacobi," which would lead us to suppose that Egmond had left London to settle in Paris.

The last of the series of books bearing Egmond's device is an edition of the *Heures a l'usage de Rome*, printed at Paris not earlier than 1521, since the calendar only begins with that year. It is an 8° of 112 leaves (A-O<sup>8</sup>). The copy in the British Museum, the only one I have seen, is printed on vellum, and the cuts and initial letters throughout the whole book are illuminated in gold and colours. This may, in the opinion of some, increase the beauty of the book, but it ruins it for purposes of comparison, since it is impossible to trace even the strongest lines of the woodcut through the thick coating of body colour which forms the ground of such illuminations. Its binding is of olive morocco, the work evidently of one of the Eves, and in the centre and corner of the sides are impressed the initials of a former owner.

Upon the last page is a very curious pictorial rebus of nine lines. The first five are not uncommon in Paris printed service books, especially in those printed for Guillaume Godard, but they were considered so difficult to decipher even at the time, that a translation in ordinary type was subjoined. This is found also in the present book, but unfortunately no translation of the last four lines has been added, so that their meaning is still hidden, for without some such assistance it seems impossible to solve the riddle. From a word or two which can be made out here and there, we can see that the lines are merely moral maxims, and do not contain the name of the printer, so that their solution is not of much importance.

None of the last four books contain either the name of the printer, or any reference to the sign where they were printed or sold. The only information they give is that they were printed at Paris, and one adds further, "Venundantur Parrhisius in vico sancti Jacobi," which hardly helps us, seeing that the Rue St. Jacques, in the vicinity of the University, was in great part occupied by stationers, booksellers, and printers. They are all the work of one printer, as we can see from the type, which in many ways resembles that of Lyons rather than Paris; but further than this we cannot go at present, for the varieties of type then used in France were so numerous, and so little has yet been done to distinguish them, that it is impossible in many cases to assign particular books to any individual printer. The work done by M. Harrissee in the introduction to his *Excerpta Columbiniana* on this subject is remarkably good, but does not extend far enough to help us in this particular case.

It is much to be regretted that so little is known about these early stationers, especially such as were important enough to have books printed at their expense, for we can hardly get a clear insight into the history of English printing till we know more about these men who had such an influence upon it. Their importation of foreign books, and the consequent competition, changed entirely the aspect of the book trade, and until the passing of the Act of 1535 materially cramped home production.

Before that time, under the Act of 1483, there were no restrictions against foreign competition, indeed the Act tended rather to encourage it, and many foreign booksellers, especially those of Rouen, paid periodical visits to England to sell their books at the fairs. Examining such a document as the Day-book

of John Dorne, bookseller in Oxford, in 1520,\* we see how large a proportion of a bookseller's stock consisted of foreign printed books, and can understand the growing feeling against their importation which led to the Act of 1535.

I have ventured to put together these facts about Egmond, which I trust may not be considered entirely without interest, in the hope of eliciting some further information. As will be seen we know yet but little about him, but even that little has never been put on record, and until we have some foundation on which to collect our scattered information we can make but small use of it. Once get facts together so that they can throw light upon each other, and their value is increased a hundredfold. As our greatest] bibliographer has said, "What is wanted for the solution of a bibliographical problem is not ingenuity of speculation, but simply honest and patient observation of *facts allowed to speak for themselves.*"

E. GORDON DUFF.

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\* Edited by Falconer Madan, Esq., Sub-librarian of the Bodleian, and published by the Oxford Historical Society, Vol. 5.—*Collectanea*, Vol. I.





## Procope Valdfoghel, Goldsmith and Printer.

*L'Imprimerie à Avignon en 1444. Par L'Abbé Requin, Correspondant du Ministère des Beaux Arts (Alphonse Picard: Paris, 1890).*

THE date upon the title-page of this *brochure* is somewhat startling. The author has discovered amongst the registers of the notaries of Avignon, documents which he believes refer to early printing, and which bear the dates 1444-1446.

The first register is that of Jacques de Brieude, and the date 1446 appears at the head of every letter of the index, all the entries in which correspond with the folios of the volume, the same date being repeated throughout. The second register is a volume of "Notes Brèves," by Pierre Agulhacii, containing deeds dated 1444-1446; each year has its respective date, and the entries are all written in the order indicated by the table. The third register is also by Pierre Agulhacii, forming part of his "Notes Etendues," the document which interests us bearing the date 1444.

The author insists most strongly on the authenticity of this date, for, as he justly observes, his case entirely rests upon it.

In the first volume of registers, by Jacques de Brieude (1446), we are told in one of the documents that a certain Procope Valdfoghel, a goldsmith, originally of Prague, made, on the 10th of March, 1446, a contract with a Jew named Davin, of Caderousse, and engaged to cut upon iron 27 Hebrew letters according to the "Ars scribendi artificialiter," an art which Valdfoghel had made known to the Jew two years before, *i.e.*, in 1444; Valdfoghel was to make the necessary machines for the new art; Davin on his part agreed to teach Valdfoghel how to dye silk, linen, and other materials, scarlet, "brasil," black, &c., and also how to give to cloth a green tint, without the aid of fire. Davin was, in addition, to furnish the wood and tin for making the matrices and the letters, and he promised to tell no one, either directly or indirectly, about the art which had been taught him.

Valdfoghel, like Gutenberg, was in need of money, and was obliged to pledge his furniture, his clothes, and even his types, to Davin. The Jew seems to have abused his position of creditor, for he did not fulfil his part of the contract, and kept back a

cloak and 48 letters, although Valdfoghel had paid his debt to him. After this we hear no more of Davin.

Valdfoghel, however, had communicated his secret to Girard Ferrose, a locksmith, of the diocese of Treves, who had established himself at Avignon. They entered into partnership, and resided in the same house, but again the money failed and they pledged a clock belonging to Ferrose to a Jew (perhaps to Davin), but the florins he advanced were soon exhausted, and on the 27th August, Valdfoghel received from George de Jardine 10 florins, and afterwards 27, and engaged in return to teach him the new art; each of them promising not to divulge the secret to any one. How long Jardine remained a pupil of Valdfoghel's we do not know, for there is no further mention of him. Ferrose separated from Valdfoghel for a short time, but in April, 1446, we again find them in partnership and inhabiting the same abode, and in possession of the types of *Manaud Vitalis*.

This *Manaud Vitalis* and his friend *Arnaud de Coselhac*, both students at Avignon, had also been initiated into the secret of printing by Valdfoghel in 1444; he had supplied the implements and taught them how to use them; he now borrowed the types and the tools from *Vitalis*, and on the 4th of July he stated before the notary that he had two alphabets in steel, a vice in steel, cases, matrices and 48 letters in tin, all belonging to *Vitalis*, which he promised to return on demand. *Manaud Vitalis* soon after this left Avignon, but before he departed Valdfoghel compelled him to swear upon the Gospels that the "*Ars scribendi artificialiter*" was a true art, a very true art, possible and useful to him who worked at it and loved it.

M. Requin then proceeds to anticipate some objections. He repudiates the idea that the new art could be block printing; movable types must have been intended, for are not 48 letters and two alphabets mentioned? Neither could it have been the simple outlining of capital letters which were to be filled in by the illuminators; that had been known for many years, there was no secret about it.

In conclusion the Abbé hazards some conjectures as to the manner in which Valdfoghel became acquainted with the art; he tells us that in 1436 Gutenberg was at Strasburg developing his system, and that between 1440 and 1442 a workman robbed him of his secret and of his tools. Was this workman Valdfoghel? Or he has another solution; amongst the witnesses in the Gutenberg lawsuit was one Hans Dunne, a timber merchant and

goldsmith—might not Valdfoghel have been employed in his workshop, and so have easily obtained the secret from Gutenberg? It may be so, but these questions remain to be answered. What did Valdfoghel print? Why do we hear no more about him after 1446? and why do we know of no other press at Avignon till 1497, fifty-one years afterwards?

S. J. ALDRICH.





## The Oxford English Dictionary.

*A new English Dictionary on Historical Principles*, edited by Jas. A. H. Murray, LL.D. Parts 4, 5, C.—Clivy. Clarendon Press, Oxford, 1888-9.

THE second section of Part IV., forming the commencement of Vol. II. of this national work, was issued in 1888, and was followed at the close of last year by Part V., which takes us well on into the letter C. These are of no less interest than the former Parts, in some things perhaps more so, for the light that they shed upon what we may call the natural history of our language, and we shall make no apology for calling attention to some of the results attained. It is indeed the more necessary that the history and objects of this dictionary should be recalled, as there is now apt to be some confusion in the public mind between it and a recent venture started on the other side of the Atlantic, called the *Century Dictionary*. This production, we hasten to say, has been arranged, with that smartness and business capacity which belong to our American cousins, on the lines which satisfy immediate wants; the size is rather smaller and more handy than its Oxford fellow, there are pictures for those who need them, there is an infinitude of foreign technical terms, the price is cheaper, and above all—which is what fetches an impatient age—it is to be completed by a given date, *i.e.*, in two years. It is edited by an eminent American philologist, who, after seven years' preparation, is issuing it at the rate of a part monthly. Its critics call it "handsome," "comprehensive," and "satisfactory," and judge "the quotations from authors for the use of words very appropriate and well selected"; the publishers declare that its "purchasers will obtain a reference library," for it is an "Encyclopædic Lexicon" of English.

We have also in this country Cassell's *Encyclopædic Dictionary of English*, lately completed in fourteen parts, which certainly took much more than seven years in preparation. Both are very useful works in their way for ordinary use, and the habit of consulting them will, it may be hoped, foster the desire for more knowledge, and they will so pave the way for the wider use of the Oxford Dictionary.

But this Oxford Dictionary, founded upon materials gathered at first by the London Philological Society, afterwards by the concurrence of many thousands of readers during more than

twenty years, does not profess to be encyclopædic, gives no pictures, does not want to be a reference library, and is not in a hurry to get finished. Why? because its object is the study of the language itself, and the problems that its life and growth present; the quotations are not chosen because they are "appropriate," but just the other way about, for the sense of the word exhibited in each; it aims at giving the history of each word, its origin, the changes and development in sense (which are often marvellous), its death or its further growth. It thus will really be a great aid in the history of ideas. For this, myriads of specimens must be closely examined and compared; the laws of spoken sounds, and of the letters which are their symbols, their changes and combinations, require constant attention and research; grammatic forms and constructions, the difference between literary and spoken speech, and much besides, have to be taken into account. Questions of classification and relationship, of popular derivation and erroneous analogy, of confusions of sense or attribution, consume the worker's time with often small result, while the chase after the obscure origin of some quite common word, such as *chop*, is often provokingly futile.

This book therefore aims at placing the knowledge of English upon a truly scientific basis, such as has never been attempted before. There may be a few errors, there may be omissions, they matter little; the great body of the language, as it now is and has been, will be embodied in a standard monument, which, while presenting all typical forms and varieties, fully indicates the historic and scientific principles by which future varieties and growths may be classified and studied. This is work that cannot be done in a day, as was shown at a recent meeting of the Philological Society. The history of a word, such as *chap* for example, may be passed as finished; when *chop* is reached the one is found to bear so much upon the other that it has to be re-opened and re-considered, and quite different conclusions may be arrived at. *Clean* and *clear* give another example of the sort: and these may occur so frequently under one letter, as to render delay of the earlier part to be issued inevitable. All this strenuous and conscientious endeavour requires tracts of time, even with the concurrence of many helpers, but it lifts the work far above temporary handbooks; and it is fervently to be hoped that the gallant enterprise of the Clarendon Press, and the self-sacrificing labour of the editor may meet with due support



throughout the country. The only way it can be carried through is by meeting with such support ; it ought to be in every public library in the kingdom, and we trust that patriotic love for our noble language will urge every librarian to get the sovereign a year allowed which will buy the annual parts.

Part V. is especially interesting for the many words connected with the Christian Church, such as *Christ, christian, christen, catholic, cathedral, clergy, chapter, catacomb, chalice, cherub* and many more. *Church* with its compounds, from *church-ale* to *church-yard*, occupies twenty columns alone, and its history, one of much difficulty and which has occupied much attention, is now practically cleared up, showing the curious fact that in the process of natural selection the Teutonic and Slavonic races chose one Greek word (whence our *church*), the Latin and Romanic races another (whence the French *église*) to represent the same thing ; first the building and then the Christian organisation. The story of *chapel* too, is a singular one and supplies a good specimen of the method of sense development ; it is first quoted in the form *chapele* in the 13th century. "From the *cappella* or cloak of St. Martin, preserved by the Frankish kings as a sacred relic, which was borne before them in battle, and used to give sanctity to oaths, the name was applied to the sanctuary in which this was preserved under the care of its *cappellani* or 'chaplains,' and thence generally to a sanctuary containing holy relics, attached to a palace, &c. [especially to a Roman Catholic Church, might be added] and so to any private sanctuary or holy place, and finally, to any apartment or building for orisons or worship, not being a church, the earlier name for which was *oratorium*, oratory."

*Cast*, which opens Part V. is the longest word yet treated in the Dictionary, occupying over twenty columns. The noun (derived from the verb) is found in forty-two senses, which are classified under fourteen heads ; the verb in popular usage took the place about the Middle-English period of the old *warþ*, and is now being superseded in the same way by *throw*, we rather "throw away rubbish" than "cast" it away. Of the simple verb alone we have no less than sixty meanings, under twelve heads ; and in combination with adverbs and a few other words, such as to *cast about*, to *cast forth*, *cast out*, &c., and *cast hounds*, *cast (any one) in the teeth*, *cast their heads together*, it gives twenty-two more with their sub-divisions. What a glimpse does this give of the riches and power of our tongue ! *Throw* leads us to the word *chuck*,



ordinarily supposed to be a vulgarity, but which is here shewn to be of respectable connections though its exact origin is unknown; probably one of the class of imitative words, we are surprised to find that it is not confined to spoken familiarity, but is used by such writers as Mrs. Browning, Kingsley, Tennyson, and Lord Lytton. This colloquial word for toss or throw is matched in East-Anglia by the local *cop*, e.g., "cop us an apple."

Our last illustration of the treasures here to be found will be of our family friend the cat. This article occupies more than six columns, and contains some fresh facts. A very venerable word this, found in Latin and Greek as far back as their records go, Egypt being pointed to as its original home. Old English and old Norman French both had the form *cat* as now we have it; in other languages the similar vocal effort is seen in many various shapes, from old Norse *köttv*, old High German *chazza*, to Breton *kaz*, and the Russian *kot* and Finnish *katti*. As an animal alone *cat* shows five different meanings, with four sub-meanings, among which we find that the familiar term of contempt now usually bestowed only on a (spiteful) woman formerly was applied to men also, by no less an authority than Shakespeare, who makes Bertram in *All's Well* say of Parolles, "A pox upon him for me, he's more and more a cat!" We come next to "transferred senses" in military and nautical terms, like *cat-o'-nine-tails*, and in games, such as *tip-cat*. Then come phrases and proverbs, "turn the cat in the pan" (for which the famous old song, "The Vicar of Bray" might have been quoted), "a cat may look at a king," &c. We may say in passing that the proverbial aspect of the Dictionary is very valuable, gathering as it does every instance and indicating in many cases how the sense application arose. The last section deals with *cat* used as an attribute, as *cat-tribe*, *cat-bolt*, &c., and in specially known combinations so formed, under which there are a great number of illustrative quotations, some of much curiosity. Combinations with the genitive, such as *cat's-eye*, *cat's-paw*, follow, the whole ending with *cat* as verb and substantive in nautical use, obsolete and living.

In conclusion, let none be alarmed at the learning poured forth in these volumes, for as we hope to have shown by our specimens, there is something for every sort of student.

L. T. S.

## THE LIBRARY CHRONICLE.

### Record of Bibliography and Library Literature.

Revue internationale de Bibliographie médicale, pharmaceutique et vétérinaire, dirigée par le Docteur Jules Rouvier. No. 1, Avril, 1890. pp. iv., 284. 8vo. Paris et Beyrouth.

It is somewhat difficult to understand the *raison d'être* of this publication. In his preface Dr. Rouvier speaks of the necessity for keeping abreast of the professional literature of the day, and regrets the absence of any guide for this purpose. To supply *cette lacune de notre littérature médicale*, is the task Dr. Rouvier has set himself. Before starting on such an arduous undertaking it would have been well had the editor taken pains to get definite information as to the real want of such a publication. He surely cannot be acquainted with the *Index Medicus*, published monthly by Drs. Billings and Fletcher, or with the *Medicinische Bibliographie* issued weekly under the editorship of Dr. Würzburg, as either of these publications covers a much wider field than that Dr. Rouvier proposes for himself. These two publications come out with commendable regularity, and were the work now under notice as well done or as complete as either of these, the fact that it is only to appear quarterly would be fatal to its success. There can be no room for a publication of this kind issued in April, and giving references to the literature of the three last months of the previous year. In looking at the necessity for this work, it must also not be forgotten that each branch of medicine and surgery has its own *Centralblatt*, appearing for the most part weekly, and giving a full account of the literature of all countries.

But even if it could be shown that there was an opening for this new venture, it would still be impossible to say that the number before us gave promise of success.

In the first place the number of journals indexed is so meagre as to make the book well nigh useless:—*e.g.*, the transactions of the London medical societies are not noticed, although their current volumes were issued during the period this number is supposed to embrace. Again, the references are given in so unscientific a manner as to make them difficult, and in some instances almost impossible, of identification. We emphatically protest against the plan Dr. Rouvier has adopted of translating the titles of papers into French; by this plan books and papers are referred to which have no real existence, and this causes both reader and librarian endless trouble and annoyance. Not only are the titles of the papers given in French instead of the language in which they were written, but in many instances the title of a journal is rendered in French in such a way as to make it unrecognisable. For instance we get *Congres de Leeds*, which really refers to the meeting of the British Medical Association at Leeds. On another page we find *Soc. Pathol., Manchester*, Nov. Here is an instance of Dr. Rouvier giving a definite reference to a book which has no existence, as this society issues no transactions, the papers read at its meetings being generally published in the medical journals. Instances of this kind may be met with on nearly every page. The references, too, are given so clumsily that they occupy much more space than is really necessary, *e.g.*, p. 241, *Union Médic.* 4th Juin, 13th Juill., 5th Oct., 26th Oct., 5th et 28th Déc. Pp. 75, 500, 600, 796, 902. Much more might be said as to the unscientific character of this bibliography, but enough has been said to show that if the want really exists, Dr. Rouvier has not been successful in filling it.



A Collection of Facsimiles from examples of Historic or Artistic Bookbinding, illustrating the History of Binding as a Branch of the Decorative Arts. London: Bernard Quaritch, 1889. La. 8vo, pp. 36, with 103 plates.

We owe an apology to our readers for having delayed so long in bringing under their notice this magnificent book, certainly the finest collection of facsimiles of artistic bindings which has yet been published in England. The hundred and three plates which it contains are the work of Mr. Griggs, and in beauty of execution yield only to the as yet unrivalled illustrations in M. Charles Cousin's *Raconters illustrés d'un vieux collectionneur* (Paris, 1887), to which the vellum-like consistency of its japan paper lent a brilliancy perhaps unattainable on any other material. Mr. Quaritch's facsimiles were originally issued in heterogeneous order in monthly parts, but in republishing these as a volume he has rearranged them in their historical order, and prefixed a lively and readable introduction, to the authorship of which he gives no clue. The claim which the preface asserts, that the facsimiles in their new form constitute not merely a portfolio, but a book, may be readily admitted, and we ourselves know of no other history of bookbinding from which the amateur may more readily and pleasantly acquire at least a rudimentary acquaintance with the development of the most fascinating of the minor decorative arts.

With the history of bookbinding before the Renaissance, Mr. Quaritch does not greatly concern himself. The cylindrical boxes in which the Greeks and Romans kept their rolls of MSS. have nothing in common with the covers of modern books, nor have the wonderful bindings in ivory and metal, nailed on wooden boards and studded with jewels, of the Byzantine and Carolingian periods, much greater connection with the subject. The beautiful stamped bindings which flourished from the thirteenth century onwards have more claim to consideration. But Mr. Quaritch regards these as forming a subject by themselves, akin rather to the history of engraving than of bookbinding, in which he will only recognize the work executed with the minute tools of the bookbinder proper, which leave free scope to all the individuality of character which their wielder may possess. The few "Gothic" bindings in blind tooling, with which the book opens, are not very good specimens of their kind, and the facsimiles of them are so dark as to do little justice to the delicacy they possess. But towards the end of the third quarter of the 15th century, gold begins to appear in some Venetian bindings, and with this "charming innovation," as he elsewhere calls it, the history of bookbinding, in Mr. Quaritch's eyes, really begins. The traffic of Venice with the East, caused her early binders to be largely influenced by Saracenic models, which, through Venice, have left their traces on the covers of the books of all European nations, including our own. After some charming examples of these Mr. Quaritch gives some illustrations of the cameo work of the early 16th century, including the medallion associated with the books of Demetrio Canevari, who, however, as he points out, can only have inherited the beautifully dressed works which must have received their ornaments some years before his birth, in 1559. After some specimens of a transitional style, we come to the bindings executed for Jean Grolier, the French treasurer of the Milanese, to whose taste, and to that of Aldus, and the other members of the little "Academy," all that is best in modern work owes its origin. The Grolieresque style did not attain its fullest beauty till after its author's return to France in 1530. The geometrical patterns, with their masses of "thick black parallel involutions outlined in gold," have always seemed to us somewhat heavy, and they gave rise to the gaudiness of the more debased Grolieresque, in which the spaces between



the lines are filled with paints of all the colours of the rainbow. It was with the French substitution of single for double lines, and the resolute refusal of all colour save that of the leather and the gold, that binding in the books of Henri II. and Diana of Poitiers reached its perfection. Some magnificent examples of this style are in Mr. Quaritch's collection. In a copy of the works of Themistius (Aldus, 1534)—valued, as we note from his catalogue, at £110—the ornamentation of the brown morocco is effected entirely by means of gold, and is justly described as “truly regal” in its simplicity. “The elements are the crown, shield, and collar of France, with the crescent and two-crowned H. H. within an ovaloid frame composed of four hunting bows (emblems of Diana). In the space between this border and the square outer frame of plain gold ornament, we find the title of the book, the monogram of D. D. and H., the three interlaced crescents, and the crowned H. repeated.” In a still more remarkable volume, belonging to the same possessors, a copy of Camerarius *De Prædestinatione* (valued by Mr. Quaritch at two hundred guineas), the ornamentation consists solely of blind tooling on white leather. All the emblems which the fair Diana borrowed from her namesake are here introduced in beautiful interlacement, and the effect is striking in the extreme.

From France Mr. Quaritch passes on to illustrate the Grolieresque bindings of England and Germany, and then reviews the Veneto-Lyonnese work, stamped in the centre or corners with Grolieresque patterns. The delicate tracery of the Eves, and the *pointillé* of the mysterious Le Gascon next occupy his attention, and he then proceeds to illustrate the later history of binding both in France and England. Of a work whose chief importance avowedly lies in its illustrations, no adequate idea can be conveyed by mere description; but we have no hesitation in recommending Mr. Quaritch's magnificent volume to all amateurs and librarians, whose purses are sufficiently long to defray its necessarily heavy price.

The Bibliography [Biographical and Topographical] of Ackworth School. By John H. Nodal. Ackworth Old Scholars' Association, 1889. 8vo. pp. 52.

The Society of Friends, in the year 1779, commenced the good work of which the present publication is in some degree a record. At the centenary meeting of the school it was decided that a collection of the writings of old scholars should be got together and preserved in the library of the school. Eight years after the centenary, all that had been obtained, either from living authors to whom an appeal had been made, or by purchase, amounted to only thirty publications. It was then clearly seen that the initial step to such an enterprise was to ascertain definitely who were these authors, living or deceased, and what were their writings. As may be imagined this involved a very considerable amount of time and research, for, as Mr. Nodal observes:—“I have notes of about a dozen old scholars, whose names are identical with writers who have published, but in the absence of details and of positive verification, I have thought it best to reserve them for further research.” In spite of the difficulties attending the work, a large amount of interesting information has been collected, which is of importance as showing the literary fertility of the school and of members of the society, or of their children. The brief biographies, which are alphabetically arranged, are succeeded by chronological lists of the writings of their subjects; and although the work neither makes nor has any pretension to be accounted a piece of scientific bibliography, yet the care and zeal with which Mr. Nodal has carried out his self-imposed task deserve warm commendation. Among scholars not unknown to fame may be mentioned such names as John

Bright, Joseph F. B. Firth, John Gilbert Baker, William Howitt, and Sarah Stickney, better known as Mrs. Ellis. At the end is a list of publications about Ackworth and the school, chronologically arranged.

Check List of Bibliographies, Catalogues, Reference Lists and Lists of Authorities of American Books and Subjects. Compiled by Paul Leicester Ford. Brooklyn, N.Y., 1889. 4to, pp. 64.

This list is arranged under a series of classes, such as bibliography, general works, geography, ethnology, philology, &c., these classes being again sub-divided. Each class or subdivision is arranged under a separate alphabet, and to each entry is appended a running number, to which is prefixed a letter, indicating whether the work is an auction sale catalogue, bibliography, booksellers' catalogue, public library catalogue, private library catalogue, reference list, or list of writers. There is also added to the running number a sign, which shows the method of arrangement of the work catalogued; whether alphabetically, by authors, or by subjects, chronologically, or classically. In some cases two or more signs are used: the first indicates the method of arrangement, those that follow give a clue to the system of indexes. A classification of contents precedes the list, and an authors' index at the end renders it easy for reference. The book is printed as a double columned work, the *verso* of each leaf, and the right-hand column of each *recto*, being left blank for manuscript additions. In a prefatory note the compiler states that "these brief titles are designed as the working basis for a full and critical catalogue" of books which come within the scope of his undertaking, and, if carried out in the same careful and methodical manner in which the present list is printed it will form a bibliography of great interest and importance. Meanwhile, the *Check List* will be of great value as showing at a glance the best authorities on the subject. The dedication, "To Justin Winsor. . . . as some recognition of his work in American Bibliography," is a graceful and well-deserved compliment.

Caspar's Directory of the American Book, News and Stationery Trade. Milwaukee, 1889. Royal 8vo, pp. 1434. Price 12 dollars, net.

Not only does this supply all the requirements of a trade directory in the very fullest manner, but the needs of the bibliographer and bibliophile have been carefully considered. By appending a list of practical bibliographies and a vocabulary of terms, phrases, and abbreviations, Mr. C. N. Caspar has rendered his great directory of far more than local or temporary interest. The thoroughness with which the vocabulary has been compiled is seen on perusing such entries as book sizes, where the comparative dimensions in the United States, and in England, appear; metric and monetary systems; papers, sizes and names; Roman numerals, &c. An admirably engraved portrait of the late Frederick Leypoldt forms a frontispiece to the volume, and Mr. R. R. Bowker contributes a brief biography of that "martyr of American bibliography." The London publisher is Mr. B. F. Stevens.

### Library Catalogues and Reports.

The Fortieth Annual Report of the Bank of England Library and Literary Association, 1890. pp. 19.

In noticing the last annual report we had occasion to regret the large number of volumes reported "missing," and it is with considerable



sorrow, but scarcely with surprise, that we find the present report opening with a statement that only two of those "stray sheep" had been returned, and an account of the steps taken by the committee to protect the books in future. It is sincerely to be hoped their efforts in this direction may be successful. The membership continues at a satisfactory number—510, against 537 last year; but the diminution is more apparent than real, as formerly subscribers for any part of the year were reckoned as members, whilst by the new method of counting, the membership will be as at 1st March in each year, so that until next year a comparison cannot well be made. The number of books in the library is 17,767, but in addition, the large number of 813 volumes supplied by circulating libraries were available for circulation during the past year. It is gratifying to learn that, through the generosity of a member of the association, who offers 500 copies of the catalogue, printed and bound, provided the matter is furnished ready for the press, the Court of Directors removed any difficulty which might have stood in the way by voting the sum of one hundred guineas towards the expense of preparing the "copy." This is being proceeded with, and it is hoped that in six months the work will be completed.

Battersea Public Libraries. Central Library, Lavender Hill, S.W. Catalogue of the Lending Department. Compiled and edited by Lawrence Inkster, Chief Librarian, 1890. Royal 8vo, pp. 188.

This catalogue is printed in double columns in clear type, and, unencumbered by advertisements, is offered at the very reasonable price of sixpence. In the compilation Mr. Inkster has followed the usual dictionary plan, adhering to the cataloguing rules of the L.A.U.K. The preface is a model of clear, succinct explanation of the principles which have guided him in his work, and of the few simple abbreviations used throughout the book. Ample justice has been done to volumes of collected essays or biographies, the contents being printed in smaller type. Cross-references are given with liberality and conciseness. The entries under subject headings are ample evidence of the thought and care exercised in the preparation of the catalogue.

Catalogue of the Victorian Railways' General Library, Melbourne, 1888. 8vo, pp. 48.

First Supplementary Catalogue of ditto, 1889. 8vo, pp. 64.

This library, established by the Railway Commissioners of the Colony to supply the servants in their employment with books for study and recreation, contains 3,507 volumes which are very briefly enumerated in the two catalogues before us. The work has probably been done as a labour of love by some one whose only qualification for the task was his zeal. The entries are divided under ten classes, the initial words being taken at hap-hazard from the title, followed by the author's name. No sizes are given, and, with the exception of periodicals, dates are ignored. The classification is crude in the extreme; all kinds of literature, from the "Adventures of Don Quixote," to Carlyle's "Frederick the Great," are to be found in that most elastic and comprehensive class "Miscellaneous," although immediately preceding we find divisions headed "Fiction," and "History." In the preface to the supplement it is stated that in the course of twelve months it may be found necessary to issue a combined and complete catalogue; let us hope that before doing so the committee will take the advice of some competent person.



County Borough of Wigan, Free Public Library. Twelfth Annual Report of the Librarian, March, 1890. pp. 28.

The stock in the library, exclusive of pamphlets, is 35,257 volumes, being an increase since last year of 1,638 volumes. The volumes consulted in the reference department numbered 15,291, and the issue from the lending library amounted to 68,646. The attendance at the News Room has been upwards of 1,000 *per diem*. The Sunday attendances have been 12,681—a large increase since the last report. 538 new borrowers tickets were issued. The librarian states that now the financial position will be considerably improved, a Local Act having been obtained from Parliament, which enables the corporation to provide additional funds. This additional penny in the pound will produce about £700, but certain present sources of revenue will be abolished, and payments for gas, coke, and water, hitherto supplied free by the corporation, will have to be deducted. The additional free revenue will amount to about £300.

Corporation of Wigan, Free Public Library, Reference Department. Catalogue of Books, by H. T. Folkard, Librarian. Letter D only. 4to, pp. 429-529.

The present part completes the first volume of this valuable catalogue. The contents of collected essays are carefully set out, in addition to cross-entries under the respective subjects of which they treat. Works bearing upon special topics are gathered under a general heading, so that the consulter finds an admirable selection of books grouped together on subjects such as Darwinism, Dialects, Dissent, Drama, Drawing and Design, &c. Altogether the catalogue is one of the best and fullest on the dictionary plan, and will be widely used outside the library for which it has been compiled. The professions, titles, and dates within which authors flourished, are supplied in very many places. Misprints are few; the most glaring is on p. 463, under "Dialogus."

Salem, Mass. First Report of the Trustees of the Free Public Library, December, 1889. pp. 18.

The volumes in the library number 14,030, of which 3,431 have been presented. The issues for home use were 57,799, and the borrowers' cards number 4,442. The attendances at the reading and reference rooms on week-days were 928, and on Sundays 1,114. The last figures are remarkably indicative of the appreciation of Sunday opening in the States. The library at the date of the report had been open only five months. The percentage of fiction appears to be unusually large, 84.95; the next highest figures being travels, 2.67 and literature, 2.34. Mr. Gardner M. Jones is librarian.

Address of Hon. John M. Raymond at the opening of the Salem Public Library, June 26, 1889. With a brief historical sketch of the movement for the establishment of such a Library in Salem, and a notice of the Libraries now in existence in the city. Salem, Mass., 1889. Royal 8vo, pp. 62, 2 illustrations.

The progress of public libraries in the States is briefly sketched, from Franklin's institution of the Philadelphia Library to the free public libraries of the present day. It is remarkable that Salem, the second oldest among the towns of the Commonwealth, should have lagged so far behind cities of a much more recent date. This apparent anomaly is explained by the fact that from a very early period Salem has possessed

large and valuable proprietary libraries, which have hitherto met the demands of the reading population. But the city has become alive to the necessity of establishing a free library, and the citizens have responded liberally to the call for assistance in money and books. A splendid estate with a mansion was presented by four ladies, and, to judge from the beautiful heliotype and other illustrations which accompany the address, the Salem Public Library must be all that could be desired. The alterations on the building to adapt it to the purposes of a library cost \$22,153.

### Library Notes and News.

*The Editor earnestly requests that librarians and others will send to him early and accurate information as to all local Library doings. The briefest record of facts and dates is all that is required, and all contributions used will be paid for.*

*In course of time the "Library Notes and News" will become of the utmost value to the historian of the Free Library movement, and it is therefore of the highest importance that every paragraph should be vouched for by local knowledge.*

ANDOVER.—The vicar of Andover has opened a small free lending library in his parish, consisting mainly, though not entirely, of books dealing with the subject of temperance.

ASHFORD, KENT.—The question of a free library for Ashford, which is the centre of the South Eastern Railway Works, is under consideration in that town.

BUNBURY, CHESHIRE.—Mr. Brocklebank has presented to the parish of Bunbury a large and valuable library of standard works, which will be arranged in the ante-room of the new public hall.

CARDIFF.—A new lending library, called the Cathays Branch, has been opened.

COVENTRY.—A new wing to the free library, which is intended for the reference library, is nearly completed. Alderman Gulson, the donor, has expressed his aversion to any ceremonial opening of the extension.

EDINBURGH.—The Free Library Committee have applied to the City Council for the sum of £5,700 for the year ending 15th May, 1891, being equal to a rate of three farthings in the pound. The 4th June has been fixed as the opening day of the free library.

LONDON.—According to the report of the Charity Commissioners just issued, the provision for library purposes in the City of London consists of £80,000 for initial expenditure in Bishopsgate and Cripplegate, representing an income of about £2,400, and the annual contribution of such a sum to the Bishopsgate Foundation to make up its annual revenue for library purposes to £2,000. This annual contribution, estimated at about £1,500, will in a short time, by the increase of the value of the Bishopsgate property, disappear altogether; the whole maintenance of the library being in that event borne by the parish. These appropriations, together with the advantage given to Cripplegate by uniting under one administration the dispersed shares of the old Cripplegate Charities, so far as the city interest in them is concerned, constitute, in the view of the Commissioners, such a provision as might reasonably and properly be demanded on behalf of the city; and, in combination with the revenues of



those two large parishes, would provide library facilities for a population resident or employed within the city probably exceeding 250,000; to which number the parish of St. Luke, participating at once in the benefit, would add a population of not less than 46,000. The Commissioners anticipate that, in the course of time, those benefits will, under powers reserved to the library authorities, be extended to other adjacent districts. It would, they think, greatly contribute to this end if the provisions of the Act could be extended so as to enable parishes, by agreement with the authorities of these libraries, to contribute annually, on reasonable terms, to their maintenance, in consideration of participating in their benefits; by which means the initial expenditure, which is so great an obstacle to the adoption of the Public Libraries Act, would be to a great extent avoided, and branches might, at a comparatively small cost, be provided in suitable places.

LONDON : BATTERSEA.—The Free Library Commissioners have engaged three girls as assistants in the library.

LONDON : BERMONDSEY.—The Free Library Commissioners have applied for power to borrow £10,000, for the purpose of building and furnishing a free library for Bermondsey. There was no opposition at the official inquiry on April 30.

LONDON : ST. GEORGE'S, HANOVER SQUARE.—On April 18, an important meeting in furtherance of the adoption of the Public Libraries Acts in St. George's parish was held in the Pinlico Rooms, Sir George Cubitt, M.P., presiding. Mr. R. C. Antrobus, who is acting as honorary secretary of the movement, said that among the letters of regret from gentlemen who were unable to be present, was one from the member for the borough, the Right Hon. G. J. Goschen, who wrote that a question of finance would detain him in the House that evening, or he would have attended the meeting, adding, "Such a movement has my most cordial sympathy, and I shall do all I can as member for St. George's to promote it." The Duke of Westminster wrote:—"I am glad to hear that the necessary steps are being taken in furtherance of this very excellent project, to which I have pleasure to wish all success. It will be a pleasure to me to give facilities for the acquisition of a site for the purpose, probably in the Buckingham Palace Road, if that locality should be thought suitable for the purpose by the local authority." Canon Fleming, Mr. Antrobus, the Right Hon. John Mellor, Q.C., and other gentlemen addressed the meeting. Resolutions were passed in favour of obtaining the verdict of the parish upon the question, and also of erecting one library on the proposed site in Buckingham Palace Road for the use of the outward, and another in the north part of the parish.

LONDON : ST. MARYLEBONE.—On May 1st, in the presence of a large and enthusiastic gathering, which included most of the leading citizens of Marylebone, the Duke of Fife opened the new branch library, which is situated in Mortimer Street, close to Regent Circus. The Library Association was represented by Messrs. Briscoe, Burgoyne, Caddie, MacAlister and Mason. The room, which is well adapted for the purpose, was crowded to excess, and a large crowd, unable to view the ceremony of opening, visited the room after the meeting had broken up. The new library has been established by the Marylebone Free Public Library Association (of which the Duke of Fife is president) on the same lines as the Lisson Grove Library, which, during its nine months' existence, has been such a signal success. Although relying for support entirely



upon public subscriptions, the library will be conducted exactly as if it were rate-supported, and the association has good reason to hope that the new venture will be as popular as the first, and that these two libraries will effectively demonstrate the need of free public libraries in this extensive London borough. The library at present contains upwards of 2,000 volumes ; the reading room is well supplied with current literature, and a portion of the room is screened off for the use of ladies.

MANCHESTER.—Dr. Morehouse, Huddersfield, has offered for acceptance to the Committee of the Home Missionary (Unitarian) College, Manchester, his collection of books dealing with Puritanism, a valuable library, gathered during a long life.

ST. KILDA.—In connection with the marriage of the "Queen of St. Kilda," on the 28th May, Messrs. G. Phillips and Son have sent a large map of the British Isles for the School at St. Kilda, together with four wall maps. In order to reduce the monotony of the St. Kildans, over 300 volumes will also be taken out to form a free library.

THE Library at Chatsworth is being rearranged, and the Duke of Devonshire has promised that any surplus or duplicate works shall be sent to the new Library of Toronto University, to replace those destroyed by fire.

We have received a copy of *Bloomsbury and St. Giles's, Past and Present*, by Mr. George Clinch, of the British Museum, a member of the Library Association. We hope to notice this handsome volume in our next issue.

### Obituary.

MR. HENRY CAMPKIN, F.S.A., an original member of the Library Association, died on April 6, aged seventy-four. He was formerly for many years librarian of the Reform Club, to the duties of which position he devoted himself with great energy, paying special attention to the departments of typographical and historical literature. In 1879 he was seized with illness, and since then his days have been passed in retirement, in the possession of a pension from the club funds. Mr. Campkin was imbued with poetic feeling, and his little volume of "Peter Little ; or the Lucky Sixpence," a verse book for his children, which was originally published in 1851, passed into a fourth edition in 1861.

### Practical Librarianship.

A PRACTICAL LIBRARIAN.—IN recently noticing what has been done by some of the new school of librarians to attract attention to their libraries and the advantages that readers may derive from them, we have been guilty, unintentionally, of an injustice in ignoring the work of one who has for years, alone, and in the face of many difficulties, and actual rebuffs from those for whose good he has been striving, exercised the calling of librarian in its very highest aspect, viz., that of a guide and teacher of his readers. We refer to Mr. J. De Maine Browne, librarian of the Public Library, Douglas, Isle of Man. For a long time, from the opening of the library, *The Isle of Man Times* has devoted several columns to Mr. Browne's use, and these he has filled with most interesting talk of the books he loves so well and which he evidently longs to see loved by others. Mr. Browne really seems to read his books, and to know something more of them than is, we regret to say, the rule with

many practical librarians. His plan is a very simple one. On their arrival he publishes a list of the new books added to the library, with notes and comments on the more important of them, and from time to time gives most tempting extracts and notices of some of his older possessions. We know that the result of all this patient work has proved to be of the highest practical value, and has caused Mr. Browne to be surrounded with a circle of true book lovers, who, guided by him, are enriching their minds with the best literature of the day. We wish we could reprint some of his notes, but our limits forbid this, though we hope to arrange shortly to have some reprints, and shall circulate them with *The Library* as a supplement. We regret to say that some few months ago Mr. Browne's health broke down through over-work and he has been compelled to rest for a time. In his enforced retirement it must have been gratifying to him to receive a complimentary address, signed by some of his most influential readers, in which they express their deep regret and sincere sympathy with him in his illness, and blame the Free Library Committee for their neglect of the ventilation of the reading room to which is ascribed very largely Mr. Browne's breakdown. We sincerely hope he will soon be restored to perfect health and may long continue his career as one of the best examples of a librarian who reads not for himself alone.

STATISTICS OF CONSULTING BOOKS.—The sarcastic hint about increasing the issues, given in *Jottings*, suggests another way of legitimate increase of which I have taken advantage for some years past. In many reference libraries there are placed, for handy reference, a number of what may be termed "consulting books," such as dictionaries, concordances, almanacks, calendars, and the like; and as credit is not usually taken for the issue of these works, the full use of the reference library is not set forth in the library statistics in such cases. In our little Reference Library at Aston, we have about thirty volumes in our consulting case, and on the top edge of each volume is laid a small, narrow ticket, on which is printed:—"When taking this volume from the shelf, please drop this ticket into the box;" and in front of the case is placed a small locked box, with a slit in the lid, on which is written:—"Please drop the ticket into this box." The assistants are instructed to place another ticket on the top of any book from which the former one has been taken, after the book has been used; and when making up statistics the next morning, the tickets in the box from the former day are counted, and classed as issues of "consulting books." Out of a total of 14,000 reference issues last year, about 2,000 were recorded in this manner. R. K. D.

PRACTICAL LIBRARIANSHIP SUPPLEMENTS.—Some of the best work, worthy of notice, under this heading, is best illustrated by the printed matter prepared for the special work of libraries, but the limits of our space make it impossible for us to print such things fully, and unless printed fully they are of little use. For example, it would have been difficult within any reasonable limits to explain Mr. May's circular in such a way as to enable others to copy it, and we therefore resorted to the plan of sending a copy of the circular with each number of *The Library*. We believe the extension of this practice would be acceptable, and we shall therefore be glad to receive from librarians and others anything in the shape of printed matter that illustrates the work of the libraries in which they are interested; and if these are approved of, we shall ask them to supply us with a sufficient number to be issued as a supplement to *The Library*. We should also be glad to circulate in this way copies of plans, elevations of libraries, illustrations of new appliances, such as indicators, &c.



## A Library Bureau.

IN a letter addressed to the Editor of the *Library Chronicle*, October, 1888, I proposed the establishment in London of a library bureau, and roughly outlined the kind of work which I thought might be done by it, but although I met with considerable encouragement from publishers and others, who undertook to subscribe to the bureau in return for the advantages my scheme offered to them, the Library Association was not able at the time to take the matter up. Now that the Association is in a stronger financial position I venture to hope that if the scheme is brought forward again it will meet with more success, as I feel very confident that if properly worked such an establishment would not only be of great value to the Association, but would in a practical way do much to advance its professed objects. If the Association is not willing to undertake the risk I have no objection to do so myself provided the Association will identify itself with the bureau and make it the centre of its operations. If my scheme were carried out the bureau would, in addition to being the headquarters of the Association, where members would always be sure of finding information on all likely subjects, become a sort of library exchange, which every one interested in library matters might regard as a place of meeting and a centre to which to come when in town. The chief features would be:—

1.—A permanent exhibition of models and patterns of all kinds of library fittings and appliances, labels, forms, &c., &c.; specimens of library bindings, of leathers and of other covering stuffs.

2.—Lists of duplicate, surplus, and odd volumes from different libraries; the clerk of the bureau to carry out exchanges mutually profitable to those concerned.

3.—Libraries' lists of "Books Wanted," which booksellers would be invited to examine; and accommodation would be offered for the inspection of books on approval.

4.—Arrangements would be made with the publishers by which copies of new books and editions would be kept on view. In addition to this there would be a well-selected bibliographical library, and a collection of publishers' and booksellers' catalogues, thus enabling book-buying deputations and librarians to make up their purchasing lists on the spot, after seeing the books and with every convenience for reference at hand. By arrangement, parcels of books on sight might be sent down to the country.

5.—Plans and drawings of libraries would be kept, and copies supplied. Carefully compiled statistics of everything relating to the cost and management of libraries would be prepared and kept up to date.

Finally, there would be writing accommodation and a *Poste Restante*.

I have again submitted my proposal to the publishers and have met with most encouraging support, and I hope to be able to announce in the course of another month or so that the amount of support received is sufficient to justify a start. I would ask members of the Association and others interested in the subject to be good enough to communicate with me at once, making such suggestions as may seem to them likely to enhance the usefulness of the proposed establishment. I would also ask that those interested should do their best to recommend the scheme and to obtain support for it.



I should like to see the bureau attempt to realize an idea I have long held, viz., that an immense saving of labour, with many consequent advantages would be secured, if all new English books were catalogued at a centre and copies of the slips, printed on one side only, were supplied to all libraries that would subscribe. If the bureau scheme receives a reasonably large measure of support this could be easily and cheaply done. If once a week or oftener each librarian could receive as many copies as he requires of printed slips, giving the full title and particulars of each new English book published, all he would have to do would be to add his shelf mark, cross-reference class or subject heading, and place them in their proper position in his catalogue.—THE EDITOR.

### **Library Association Record.**

THE last monthly meeting was held at the People's Palace, on Monday, May 12th. There was a good attendance. Miss M. S. R. James read an excellent and brightly written paper on "The People's Palace and its Work," and afterwards took the members over the "Palace." A very hearty vote of thanks to Miss James and her colleagues brought to a close a most enjoyable meeting.

The next monthly meeting (the last of the Session) will be held at the rooms of the Association, 20, Hanover Square, W., on Monday, June 9th, at 8 p.m. Papers will be read by Mr. Henry R. Plomer, on "Robert Wyer, the Charing Cross Printer"; and Mr. Lawrence Inkster on "How Libraries were Described 150 Years ago." The Council will meet at seven the same evening.

### **A New Librarians' Association.**

A MEETING of the librarians of Notts, Derbyshire, Lincolnshire, and Leicestershire, convened by Messrs. Briscoe and Radford, was held in the Nottingham University College on March 26th. About twenty librarians were present. It was decided to form "The North Midland District Library Association, and that meetings be held during the months of October, December, February and April, in various towns; and that the next meeting be held at Newark-upon-Trent in October next. Mr. Briscoe was elected president, and Mr. Radford secretary and treasurer for the ensuing twelve months. Mr. Paul Herring assistant, in the Nottingham Central Free Public Library, and a holder of the Library Association's certificate, read a short paper on "Notes on a Collection of Nottinghamshire Books."

An interesting conversation followed, and there is little doubt that other local collections will be formed in the North Midland District as a result of the reading of this paper. The visitors were escorted through the University College, Natural History Museum, and the Central Free Library, where the librarian showed the Nottingham Collection and gave an address on "Library Indicators." The company then adjourned to the Mechanics' Institution where tea was provided, and subsequently inspected the libraries and reading-rooms, and the children's library associated with the free library. The meeting was then resumed, and took up matters of practical library work, such as book-binding and materials; methods of cataloguing; charging of fines for undue detention of books, &c.

## PUBLIC LIBRARIES: MONTHLY RETURN OF ISSUES, &amp;c.

APRIL, 1890.

Name and No. of Libraries in operation.	REFERENCE LIBRARIES.					LENDING LIBRARIES.					
	No. of Vols.	Issue for Month.	Days Open.	Daily Average.	Sunday Daily Average Attendance.	No. of Borrowers.	No. of days Books lent.	No. of Vols.	Issue for Month.	Days Open.	Daily Average.
Alcoa 1 .....	500	32	26	1	...	1,600	7 & 14	7,000	3,495	26	134
Barrow 1 .....	2,321	1,161	24	48	...	2,414	14	13,431	8,829	24	367
Battersea 2 ...	6,526	1,520	24	63	...	7,675	14	15,758	17,705	24	737
Birkenhead 1	11,288	7,590	24	316	...	5,671	7, 10 & 14	32,997	14,390	24	599
Bradford 9 ...	23,444	7,915	29	273	1,326	10,447	7, 10 & 14	45,548	36,151	24	1,506
Brighton 1 ...	12,645	2,525	24	105	...	5,082	14	19,664	11,117	24	463
Bristol 6 .....	15,412	16,124	22	732	...	18,654	7	58,769	30,651	18	1,703
Chelsea 2 .....	4,355	1,719	28	60	428	1,291	14	4,493	4,688	22	213
Chester 1 .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	10	4,690	3,814	24	158
Clapham 1 ...	620	581	20	29	...	3,490	14	4,531	7,630	20	382
Clerkenwell 1	1,278	...	...	...	...	3,005	15	8,760	6,869	24	286
Ealing 1 .....	850	82	20	4	...	2,199	7	6,929	10,134	20	506
Glasgow: Baille's Inst. 1	9,000	5,691	25	228	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Hamm's'sth 1	1,410	212	19	11	...	3,180	7	6,880	13,400	19	705
Harrogate 1 ...	187	39	25	1	...	3,167	14	4,794	7,922	25	316
Kensington 3 Lending	1,527	24	64	70	...	...	14	13,941	11,741	22	585
Leicester 3 ...	10,720	2,724	24	113	...	8,757	7	23,839	20,259	24	885
Marylebone 1	817	907	24	38	...	520	7 & 14	2,750	1,524	24	64
Norwich 1 .....	6,700	...	...	...	166	2,820	14	12,620	8,943	20	447 <sup>1</sup>
Paddington 1	3,260	264	30	9	70	...	...	...	...	...	...
Portsmouth 1	5,436	341	26	14	...	11,830	7 & 14	18,810	23,506	26	904
Preston 1 .....	...	...	...	...	...	15,369	14	16,385	8,066	25	322
Reading 1 .....	3,625	629	25	25	...	7,062	14	15,754	12,768	22	580
Richmond 1 ...	7,550	426	20	21	...	2,992	7	9,061	8,007	20	400
Rochdale 1 ...	12,374	5,978	29	206	510	6,000	14	29,740	11,299	25	452
St. Helens 2	3,696	359	24	14	372	2,000	7	12,175	9,720	24	405
Sheffield 5 ..	13,018	3,025	24	126	...	14,878	7 & 14	80,122	38,375	23	1,664
Wandsworth 1	3,687	235	21	11	...	3,293	7	7,777	6,926	21	329
Westminster 2 Lending	5,595	25	224	...	...	3,883	14	22,347	7,615	25	305
Yarmouth 2 ...	2,193	271	23	12	...	3,231	7, 14	8,781	10,142	23	441

<sup>1</sup> Juvenile department worked in schools. 3,667 vols.; 4,907 issues.

Fulham and Glasgow (Mitchell) Libraries closed.

Librarians who contribute to this table are reminded that their returns should be sent in by the 14th of each month to Mr. J. D. Brown, 19, Tysoe Street, Clerkenwell, W.C.

Editorial Communications and Books for Review should be addressed to the Editor, 20, Hanover Square, W.—Advertisements and Letters on Business to the Publishers, 62, Paternoster Row, E.C

Printed for the Publisher, by J. BALE & SONS, 87-89, Great Titchfield Street, London, W.

## The Monastic Scriptorium.\*—I.

COMPARED with the present form of book, which opens and closes as readily as the hand which turns its leaves, the primitive scroll unwound its length with a tediousness only to be compared with its re-winding, which might mean an extent of thirty, or more, feet. But there are survivals of the unfittest as well as of the fittest; and the scroll still survives in Jewish synagogues. In some local and secular respects also, it survived, at least, to the 17th century. At Bristol the annals of the town were recorded on long slips of parchment which were wound concentrically on a wooden reel, to the spindle of which they were severally fastened at the inner end of each slip. One of these rolls is preserved at the Bristol Museum and Library, and others are or were in existence. Suetonius relates that Julius Cæsar was the first to send letters to the Senate written on each page and folded into leaves for preservation. We believe this is the earliest specific mention of the form of book on which the reader now gazes; and if Julius of the Commentaries was the first to supersede the troublesome roll by the bound volume, he deserved to have had his life spared for that fact alone, and to be commemorated by a bust in every library. The bound form has received no improvement, and it is one which it seems impossible to change for the better. The unwinding of a roll and the opening of a book are processes of such different degrees of facility that no other innovation of equal advantage to the reader was made until the small Latin letter was brought into use by the monastics, and took the place of the uncial character, of which it is a modification. The older manuscripts were written in capitals, without spaces or points of division in the lines, the whole running continuously and without break as one word. The painful perplexity of this arrangement makes it strange that the small letter should not have been generally adopted before the ninth century, though it had been introduced at least two centuries earlier. In this character the Psalter of King Alfred, which Astle in his *History of Writing* asserted to be in his library, was written. Even at that later time the small letter i had not received the dot above it, which Mabillon says

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\* Read before Library Association, Annual Meeting, London, 1889.



was not to be found in manuscript before the 13th century ; one of the earliest books in which the complete i occurs being Henry Justellus's MS. of the Gallican Version of the Bible, written in 1294. Cæsar's *Libellus Memorialis* was composed of official documents executed with dispatch, and for readiness of reference bound together in leaves, but we may assume, without any gracious superfluity of ornament. Though Ovid speaks of a rubricated title, or rather of the absence of one—*Nec titulus minio nec cedro charta notetur* (*Trist. Eleg. I.*)—the earliest mention according to Mr. M. D. Wyatt of an illuminated book, refers to a copy of the works of Homer, written in gold upon purple vellum, which Julius Capitolinus describes in his Life of Maximinius the Younger, to have been presented to the Emperor by his mother. The practice of adding, however, figures of silver and gold, crimson and purple to the pages of a MS. was chiefly owing to the rise of a more earnest school of religious art than that of mythological paganism, and when a belief in the environment of saintly presences, undreamed of in Roman theosophy, had lent a new inspiration to the artist's work. Such zeal as is now employed by the citizen of the world in the study of his ledger was year after year exercised by the cloistered illuminator of old in the illustration of a Gospel or Psalter or legend or missal, with no hope or care for admiration except from the spiritual watchers and holy ones whom he believed to preside over his work. To build an abbey or to transcribe a breviary was to lay up treasure in heaven and not on earth. It was a meed of devotion which we cannot understand in our hurrying days of faithless forms and formless faith.

Whether the rude art of the Catacombs gave rise to the maturer design and gorgeous ornamentation of the mediæval missal has hardly been decided, the influence of the Byzantine spirit of illustration having been thought to be more distinctly traceable in the miniaturist craft of the Monastic Scriptorium than in the pictorial symbolism of underground Rome. A comparison, however, of some of the richest of the wall paintings in the Catacombs, as represented in Da Rossi's *Roma Sotteranea*, with the miniatures in Westwood's *Palæographia Sacra*, would show that the same spiritual personalities which thronged the imagination of the early Christians in the seclusion of sepulchral Rome, impelled the hand of the mediæval worker and suggested the like pictorial devices. In any case his book was wrought with a painful diligence such as some Cellini bestowed on a

silver statue or curiously figured goblet, though with a view to no temporal reward from princes of this world, but an eternal guerdon with the saints hereafter.

Mabillon calls attention to the immense industry of the Cistercians and the Carthusians in copying MSS. and multiplying them for students, especially in revising, correcting and collating the works of the holy fathers, and how all this was done in a spirit of humility and pious fervour, and penitentially for the good of the Church and the greater glory of God. "Be not troubled at the labour or fatigue," says Thomas à Kempis in addressing youth, "for God is the cause of every good work, who will render to every man his recompense according to his pious intention, in heaven. When you are dead, those persons who read the volumes that were formerly written beautifully by you, will then pray for you; and if he who giveth a cup of cold water, shall not lose his reward, much more, he who gives the living water of wisdom shall in no wise lose his recompense in heaven."—(*Doctrinale Juvenum*, cap. 4.)

John of Trittenheim, when Abbot of Spanheim, in the year 1486, in exhorting his monks, declared that in his opinion, of all their employments, there was "no manual labour more becoming to a monk than the writing of ecclesiastical books, and preparing what is needful for others who write them."

"Let prayer, meditation, and reading be followed," says St. Bernard, "by manual labour; that when the mind is fatigued with spiritual things, and being cast down by the weight of the flesh, falls from the highest to the lowest things, let it be turned, not to the vain conversation of men, but to a blessed exercise of the body. Trees cannot be planted, fields cannot be watered, and no agricultural work can be carried on consistently with perpetual seclusion." But judging from St. Bernard's own immense industry in book-work, he preferred the pen to the spade; and in continuing his instructions to a monk named Gilbert, who seems to have been much of his own disposition in this respect, he says, "but what is more useful, instead of the plough, you may take in hand the pen, and instead of marking the fields with furrows, you may score page after page with sacred letters, and the word of God may be sown in the parchment, which when the harvest is ripe, that is when the books are completed, may fill hungry readers with abundant fruits, and so heavenly bread may dispel the deadly famine of the soul. Thus, plainly, you may become a silent preacher of the divine word; and while



you hold your tongue your hand will sound aloud with uplifted voice in the ears of many people. You will be shut up in your hiding-place, while in your books you traverse sea and land. Like the watchman from the high place, you will cry aloud by the mouth of the reader in the public assemblies of the church, and whisper the same things to the silent servants of God in the recess of the cloister, and the corner of the house. For all who by reading your books have conquered pride, subdued luxury, despised avarice, restrained wrath, have abstained from or repented of any sins, will help to fill the barns of your eternal harvest, as handfuls gleaned by the sweat of your brow. And while for the most part, the works of men end with their lives, and cease when they do, you will not die even when you are dead; and even ceasing to live, you will not cease to do good, while by your works you are recalling the dead to life. And the gain of your good works in the sight of God will be extended even after your death, as long (if I may so speak) as the life of your books endure.”—(*British Mag.*, Dec., 1837.)

According to the legendary lore of our evangelical boyhood the monasteries were the very castles of indolence, “lazy monks” and “barbarous schoolmen” being accepted historic phrases that contained volumes of superstitious meaning. But these “wretched drones” not only made the wilderness a fruitful place and the desert blossom as the rose, by the work of their hands, but they busied themselves in providing materials for English history, romance, and poetry. Had the idle monks not composed their chronicles, the deeds of our ancestors would be lost to memory as well as vanished from sight, for it is to monkish records we must revert for the foundation and superstructure of the works of a Green, a Stubbs, a Palgrave, and a Freeman.

To the busy man of the world contemplation seems idleness, and the quiet routine of transcription or even literary composition, only languid activity. But inasmuch as the only gleams of light which reach us across the intellectual obscurity of the dark ages, come from the windows of the abbeys, the labours of the monastic scribes ought alone, to a scholarly estimation, to be sufficient to make up for the withdrawal of a numerous section of men from the ordinary business of the world. But the long departed monk has been wounded sore by protestant archers, whose arrows have more or less been fledged and pointed from the literary armoury of the monks themselves, that is, from the intellectual stores which they provided by their labours as copyists of the great



works of antiquity, both sacred and profane. But ingratitude is as unfailing an attribute of humanity as ignorance itself. Perhaps both of these qualities are embodied in some verses of the author of *The Castle of Indolence* :—

Had unambitious mortals minded naught  
But in loose joy their time to wear away ;  
Had they alone the lap of dalliance sought,  
Pleased on her pillow their dull heads to lay ;  
Rude Nature's state had been our state to-day.

Great Homer's song had never fired the breast  
To thirst of glory or heroic deeds ;  
Sweet Maro's song, sunk in inglorious rest,  
Had silent slept amidst the musician reeds,  
The wits of modern time had told their beads  
And monkish legends been their only strains.

But had it not been for the monks and the monastic institutions, where would Homer and Virgil have been preserved. The literature of Greece would have been as though unwritten.

The 48th Rule of St. Benedict, concerning the daily employment of the hands, thus exhorts :—"Idleness is hurtful to the soul. At certain times, therefore, the brethren must work with their hands, and at others give themselves up to holy reading. We wish, therefore, a time to be set apart for each, as follows :—From Easter to the Calends of October let the brethren, after they have gone out from prime in the morning, work at the task set before them till nearly the fourth hour. And from the fourth till the sixth let them be employed in reading. And when they rise from table after the sixth hour, let them rest on their beds in great silence, and if any one wisheth to read, let him read to himself, so as not to disturb others." From autumn to spring and during Lent, there were also prescribed times for reading and study, and "Sunday, likewise," says the Rule, "let all spend in reading, except those who have been chosen for the several offices."

It is remarkable that no mention is made by St. Benedict of writing as an employment for monks, though the literary labours of the Benedictines were destined to be colossal in their comprehensive scholarship. But writing must almost necessarily accompany reading, and so much attention to books must have led to their increase. When we consider the conservation of sacred and profane writings of all kinds, including the vast materials for French, Italian and English his-

tory which have been handed down by the monks, and add the unpublished MSS. of all kinds in public and private collections, not forgetting the incalculable waste of the monastic libraries, we may conclude that though, as Cardinal Newman argues, the occupation of writing was but incidental to the monastic life, yet each great abbey, such as Fulda, St. Gall, Gandersheim, Fleury, St. Denis, St. Martin of Tours, and our own St. Albans was practically a society of letters and a centre of enlightenment. Though the triumphal march of literature began with the invention of printing, the materials of the triumph had been provided by the cloistral transcribers, who by the preservation of the great works of the Hebrew, Greek, and Latin writers supplied editors and printers with treasures of intellect that would hardly have left the minds of men poor and unfurnished had nothing else been added until the end of all things.

Memphis, Tyre are gone,  
With all their state, but classic lore glides on  
By these Religions saved for all posterity.

It might be idle to compare a great modern printing office and its rapid productiveness with the slow manual labours of the cloister to multiply copies of books, yet a fair consideration of what was effected by the latter would show that though the feverish rapidity of modern execution, however consistent with hurrying modes of living, had no likeness in the past, yet the true human feeling which finds utterance in each page of a lovingly executed manuscript has a charm that no mechanically produced volume can supply. It is hardly recollected by those who decry the monks of old that not only do we owe to them the preservation of the Greek and Roman classics, but humanly speaking, the preservation of the Holy Scriptures and the religion of Christianity which they expound.

Not only have the memorials of the earlier ages and the great words and thoughts of the sages of antiquity been perpetuated by the tonsured brethren of mediæval times, and the Sacred Scriptures been transmitted to us by their fond care, but the lighter as well as the serious hours of the monks have left their effects in the transcription of many an old romance or minstrel song or story. In a catalogue of the library of Peterborough are recited, says Warton (p. 63, ed. 1870) *Amys and Amelion*, *Sir Tristram*, *Guy de Surgoyne*, and *Gesta Osuelis*, all in French, together with *Merlin's Prophecies*, *Turpin's Charlemagne*, and *The Destruction of Troy*.

A man may now be entitled to the name of antiquary though

he may never have copied the *Book of Troy*, or any other old work; and a librarian may exercise his office without transcribing *Macaulay's History* or *The Voyage of the Sunbeam*, or any other modern work, but in the mediæval abbey these names were respectively applied to the copyists of old and of new books. Not that transcription was restricted to the monks. When the revision of the Old Testament was undertaken by Origen in A.D. 231, we are told that St. Ambrose sent to him seven notaries and virgins skilled in caligraphy, and at the end of the 5th century St. Césaire enjoined that the nuns in his convent at Arles should engage themselves in copying books. Diemudis, a nun who lived towards the latter end of the 11th century, in a double monastery at Wessobrum in Bavaria—*i.e.*, a monastery separately apportioned for monks and nuns—was celebrated for the perfection of her handwriting, and her industry was marvellous. She made two copies of the Bible; the Commentary of Origen on the Old Testament; the Letters, Treatises, and Confessions of St. Augustine; the Epistles of St. Jerome; and the Ecclesiastical History of Eusebius, and much else. The labour of the copyist has been feelingly described by our own William Caxton, "Thus end I this book: and for as moche as in wrytyng of the same my peane is worne, myn hande wery and myn eyne dimmed with over moche lookyng on whit paper, and that age crepeth on me dayly."—Forsyth's *History of Ancient MSS.*, 62.

The present writer has copied from an old account book of the destroyed church of St. Ewen, Bristol, the following entries of the cost of one of their books, a *Legend*, so-called. The *Legend* contained the lessons that were read at divine service, which lessons included the lives of the saints and martyrs, and the book was named a *Legend* because chapters were to be read out of it at matins. Under the 8th year of Edward IV. there are charges for:—

I. doss. (dozen) and V. quayers (quires)			
to perform ye <i>Legend</i>	...	...	Xs. VIId.
Item for wrytyng of ye same	...	...	XXVs.
Item for IX. skynns and I. quayer of vel-			
om to ye same <i>Legend</i>	...	...	Vs. VIId.
Item for wrytyng ye foreseyd <i>Legend</i>	...	IIIIs.	IVd.
Also for a red skynne to kever the <i>Legend</i>			Vd.
Item for binding and correcting of the			
said boke	...	...	Vs.
Also for guming of the said <i>Legend</i>	...	XIII.	VIId.
Also for clensyng of the same boke	...		XIId.



The sum total of the cost of the *Legend* was therefore £3 5s. 1d. This at a time when, according to the same accounts, a "tyler" was paid at the rate of 3½d. per day for repairs of the church roof, could not have represented less than £30 of present money, so we may judge the expense of a library. It may be added that the same church possessed (16 Aug., 33 Henry VI.) as many as thirty volumes of service books, which are described in the inventory, but it may be noted that no Bible is mentioned.

JOHN TAYLOR.

*(To be continued.)*



## Thomas Taylor the Platonist.<sup>1</sup>

THOMAS TAYLOR, the Platonist, has been variously judged.<sup>2</sup> "To strain human curiosity to the utmost limits of human credibility," says Isaac Disraeli, "a modern Plato has arisen in Mr. Thomas Taylor, who consonant to the Platonic Philosophy, religiously professes polytheism! At the close of the eighteenth century, be it recorded, were published many volumes in which the author affects to avow himself a zealous Platonist, and asserts that he can prove that the Christian religion is 'a bastardized and barbarous Platonism.' The divinities of Plato are the deities to be adored, and we are to be taught to call God, Jupiter; the Virgin, Venus; and Christ, Cupid! The Iliad of Homer allegorized, is converted into a Greek Bible of the Arcana of Nature!"—(*Curiosities of Literature: Modern Platonism.*)

T. J. Mathias styles Taylor "the would-be restorer of unintelligible mysticism and superstitious pagan nonsense," and speaks of—

"The hymns that Taylor, England's Gentile priest,  
Sung spousal at fair Psychè's marriage feast."

Another critic, writing in *Blackwood's Magazine* in 1825, said, "The man is an ass, in the first place; secondly, he knows nothing of the religion of which he is so great a fool as to profess himself a votary; and thirdly, he knows less than nothing of the language about which he is continually writing." (Quoted by *Dr. Allibone.*) De Quincey also had a poor opinion of him, yet read what Ralph Waldo Emerson, in his conversa-

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Read before the Library Association, Annual Meeting, London, 1889.

<sup>2</sup> The materials for the following sketch are Allibone's *Dictionary of English Literature*; *An Annotated Catalogue of an unique and exceptionally complete Set of the Works of Thomas Taylor, the Platonist*, by Orlin Mead Sandford, New York, 1885; also in *Book Lore*, vols. 2, and 3; *The Antiquary*, August, 1888 (by Edward Peacock); *The Survival of Paganism* (*Fraser's Magazine*, November, 1875); Lowndes' *Bibliographer's Manual*, British Museum General Catalogue; Barker's *Literary Anecdotes*; *Publick Characters, 1798-1799* (this is, if not autobiographical, evidently based on information supplied by the subject; there is a portrait of him, representing a rather ascetic but kindly face); Disraeli's *Curiosities of Literature*; Mathias' *Pursuits of Literature*; *Nouvelle Biographie Générale*, par Hoefer; *A Brief Notice of the Life of Mr. Thomas Taylor, the Celebrated Platonist, with a Catalogue of his Works*, London, 1831, signed J. J. W. [*i.e.*, James Jacob Welsh.]

tion with Wordsworth, has said :—" I told him it was not creditable that no one in all the country knew anything of Thomas Taylor, the Platonist, whilst in every American library his translations were found. I said, ' If Plato's Republic were published in England, as a new book, to-day, do you think it would find any readers ? ' He confessed it would not ; ' and yet,' he added, after a pause, with that complacency which never deserts a true-born Englishman, ' and yet we have embodied it all.' " (Emerson's *Representative Men*, London, 1850, p. 39. See also pp. 18, 38, 40-44.)

The singular and interesting man who is known to us as Taylor, the Platonist, was born in London in the year 1758, and his parents we are told were " obscure but worthy." His father was Joseph Taylor, staymaker, of Round Court, St. Martins-le-Grand, where the future Platonist was probably born.<sup>1</sup> He was a weakly child, and signs of consumption induced his family to send him into Staffordshire. He returned to the metropolis in his ninth year, and was admitted at St. Paul's School, April 10th, 1767. His parents designed him for the Nonconformist ministry. His affection for philosophy, as distinguished from the mere verbal acquaintance with classics, was so marked, that when an ethical or specially grand sentence occurred in an author he was construing, the surmaster, Mr. William Rider, would say, " Come, here is something worthy the attention of a philosopher." He early discovered critical powers, which enabled him to notice and correct a blunder in the printing of a Latin Testament. He had now to disappoint his father, whose reverence for the ministerial office led him to regard it as " the most desirable and most enviable employment upon earth, and who was correspondingly troubled when he found that his talented son had no desire to occupy that office, and had so great a dislike to the public school teaching and languages—as it then was—that he begged to be taken home again. He had also been for a time a pupil of Mr. Worthington, the dissenting minister of Salter's Hall. Taylor was precocious in another direction, for his passion for the lady who was afterwards his wife began when he was only twelve years old.

At home young Taylor picked up a copy of Ward's *Young Mathematician's Guide*, and this gave him a turn for mathematics, in which he afterwards excelled, and to which he himself as-

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<sup>1</sup> Mr. Edward Peacock says that he was born 15th May, 1758, in a street at or near Bunhill Fields, London.—(*Antiquary*, vol. xviii. p. 1.)



cribed no small share of his success afterwards as a translator of Greek philosophy. Owing to his father's opposition his early studies in mathematics were pursued in hours stolen from rest, and he slept with a tinder-box under his pillow. He was sent at fifteen to work under an uncle-in-law at Sheerness Dockyard, but rather than endure this unpleasant situation he attempted to fall in with his father's views and became pupil to a dissenting minister. He studied Greek and Latin in the day, courted Miss Morton in the evening, and at night read Simson's *Conic Sections* in the Latin edition. His judgment on Newton, after reading the *Principia*, was that he was a great mathematician but no philosopher! Miss Morton's father intended his daughter for a richer man, but the young couple decided upon the immediate performance of the marriage ceremony, whilst postponing married life until the return of the bridegroom from Aberdeen University, where he was to finish his education. The step-mother<sup>1</sup> of Taylor found out the secret, and the young couple had a bad time of it. The bride's father was induced when dying to leave any payments to her to the discretion of a relative whose fault was not that of open-handed liberality. For about a year the philosopher and his wife had only about seven shillings a week on which to live. Taylor obtained a situation as usher, and was only able to see his wife upon the Saturday afternoon. He next obtained a position in Lubbock's Bank at a salary of fifty pounds, paid quarterly, and endured great privations from want of money, so that frequently from want of food he would be in a fainting condition on reaching home. Even under these discouraging circumstances Taylor did not neglect study, and turned his mind to the unprofitable consideration of Becker's *Physica Subterranea* and quadrature of the circle. His first essay, a quarto pamphlet, entitled *A New Method of Reasoning in Geometry*, bears upon the last-named subject, and its substance is reproduced in a note to his translation of Proclus *On Euclid*. A passage in Sir Kenelm Digby sent him to the writings of Aristotle, and he was soon able to read him in the original. He used to say himself that he learned Greek rather through the Greek philosophy than the Greek philosophy through Greek. The earnest student was always engaged at the bank until seven and often until ten, and in order to continue his abstract

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<sup>1</sup> It is said to be the mother-in-law in the sketch in *Public Characters*, but the context seems to indicate that it was his father's wife.

researches seldom went to bed until two or three o'clock in the morning. He had that power of abstraction from the common cares of life that is indispensable for successful thinking. The fact that he was accurate and "business-like" in his employment did not in the least prevent him from digesting, whilst walking about delivering the bills of the bank, that which he had read in Aristotle and his interpreters. He paid great attention to the commentaries upon Aristotle. He next proceeded to study Plato with equal or greater avidity. In this new path he soon came upon Plotinus and Proclus, whose dissertation on the theology of Plato he found so profound that it was not until he had thrice read it over that he thoroughly comprehended its abstruse matter.

Whilst engaged with Proclus he had residing in his house Mary Woollstoncraft and her friend Miss Blood. Their three months' company was mutually agreeable. The lady listened attentively to his explanations of Plato, called his study the "Abode of Peace," but avowed her preference for an active, rather than a contemplative life. He called upon her when she lived in George Street, and there drank wine with her out of a *tea-cup*; Mrs. Woollstoncraft observed at the time, that she did not give herself the trouble to think whether a glass was a necessary utensil in a house. He has also heard her say "that one of the conditions she should make previous to marriage, with the man she intended for her husband, would be this—that he should never presume to enter the room in which she was sitting, till he had first knocked at the door."

After six years at the Bank, the drudgery proved too much, even for the philosophic spirit of Taylor. Nights of arduous study following days of uncongenial employment had injured his health. He had a notion that a perpetual lamp might be made, and he gave an exhibition of his invention at the "Freemasons' Tavern." He found that oil and salt boiled formed a fluid vehicle, which when phosphorus was immersed in it, both preserved and increased the splendour of light. Unfortunately, at the exhibition the phosphorus took fire, "and thus raised a prejudice against the invention which could never afterwards be removed." The failure was not, however, without result, for it attracted the attention of Mr. George Cumberland, who, with other friends, enabled Taylor to leave the bank "and procure subsistence for himself and his family by literary toil"—but of what nature is not stated. Flaxman, the sculptor, induced him to write twelve lectures on



the "Platonic Philosophy," which were read at the artist's house, where he had amongst his auditors Sir William Fordyce, the Hon. Mrs. Damer, Mrs. Cosway, Mr. Romney and others. Flaxman also introduced him to Bennet Langton, who thrice mentioned him to the king as "a gigantic reader." George III. expressed his admiration of Taylor's ability and industry, but did not take any further notice of his Platonic subject. But if royalty was not liberal another patron arose. A wealthy man, Mr. William Meredith, of Harley Place, who had become acquainted with Plato in the fine translation of Sydenham, took him by the hand, and enabled him to print his translations of the *Hymns of Orpheus*, the *Commentaries of Proclus on Euclid*, and the *Fable of Cupid and Psyche*. In William Meredith and his brother George, who was one of the architects who early studied Gothic, Taylor had liberal and sympathetic friends.

It was at this period that the Marquis de Valady lodged with Taylor. The extraordinary letter in which the marquis introduced himself is dated "12 Xbre 1788, vulg. æra," was printed by Taylor, and is quoted in *Fraser's Magazine*, Nov., 1875. The Frenchman professed to be a Pythagorean, and thought that the philosophic doctrine of community should be extended to the conjugal relations. He asked the English Pythagorean's opinion; but Taylor severely condemned the loose morality of the suggestion.<sup>1</sup>

Taylor had the true literary dislike of critics. Dining once at Mr. Bennet Langton's, with Dr. Burney and other eminent scholars, he exclaimed to his friend, as soon as he left the house, "God keep me from critics!" This was occasioned by a dispute which arose at that time, respecting the propriety of the epithet *ocean stream*, which Mr. Taylor had made use of in his translation of one of his Orphic hymns. Mr. Taylor urged, in his defence, that this epithet was employed by Homer, Hesiod, and Plato: To this Dr. Burney replied, that Homer indeed had the expression ὠκεῖνός ποταμός, *the ocean river*, but that a *river* was not a *stream*. Mr. Taylor then observed that these words were considered as synonymous,

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<sup>1</sup> There is a biographical sketch of J. G. C. S. X. J. J. Izarn de Valady in the *Lives of the Remarkable Characters of the French Revolution*, and it is limned in very dark colours. "The persons to whom he was known assert with him madness was the result of immorality, not immorality the result of madness." He acted with the Girondins, and was arrested at Perigueux, and condemned to death, 5th December, 1794.



by no less poets than Milton and Denham. By Milton, when speaking of the leviathan (*Paradise Lost*, Book i.) he says:—

“————— or that sea beast  
Leviathan, whom God of all his works  
Created hugest, that swim th’ *ocean stream*.”

And by Denham, in the first of his famous lines on the Thames:—

“O, could I flow like thee, and make thy *stream*  
My great exemplar, as it is my theme.”

Soon after the departure of the marquis, Mr. Taylor and his wife became possessed of six or seven hundred pounds, by the death of one of her relations. A great part of this he spent in relieving some relatives, and the rest he lost in a loan to one of his early friends. The transaction was creditable to his heart if not to his head. Five or six years after he was again in embarrassment, and in seven months translated some of the abstrusest of the *Dialogues* of Plato and then sold the copyright for forty pounds. For his versions of Sallust *On the Gods and the World*, the *Pythagoric Sentences* of Demophilus, the *Five Hymns* of Proclus, the *Two Orations* of the Emperor Julian and *Five books* of Plotinus he received twenty pounds. His translation of Pausanias was the work of ten months. When the work was undertaken Mr. Samuel Patterson, the literary auctioneer, said of the task that “it was enough to break a man’s heart.” “Oh,” replied the bookseller, “nothing will break the heart of Mr. Taylor.” He injured his health by the execution of this task, for which he received £60. One result was that he lost the use of his forefinger in writing.

WILLIAM E. A. AXON.

(*To be continued.*)



## Annals of Scottish Printing.

IN this handsome and imposing volume, Dr. Dickson and Mr. Edmond have given the annals of Scottish printing with a care and fulness which in these respects leave nothing to be desired. Dr. Dickson's pamphlet on *Who was Scotland's First Printer?* and his volume on the *Introduction of Printing into Scotland*, and Mr. Edmond's *Aberdeen Printers*, prepared us for absolute accuracy and wealth of detail, and the present volume will enhance, if that be possible, the reputations of the writers as patient and accomplished bibliographers. The first twenty chapters are the work of Dr. Dickson, and for the remainder of the book (chapters 21 to 38) Mr. Edmond is responsible. Mr. Edmond has also edited Dr. Dickson's portion, so that in the first part of the book we have not only the benefit of Dr. Dickson's long-continued research into the early history of printing in Scotland, but also the advantage of Mr. Edmond's extensive knowledge of Scottish printers and printing.

The narrative form has been adopted in the collations, which is, we think, a disadvantage, as by this method conciseness and facility of reference are sacrificed in a vain endeavour to be interesting to persons outside the circle of those who find pleasure in reading catalogues. It is beyond the power of anyone living to render the description of a collation interesting to others than bibliographers, and bibliographers, we feel sure, would prefer to have the collations given in the customary concise, albeit dry, way.

While we are fault-finding, we feel constrained to say that we regret the opportunity lost of giving this work a high historical value. The facts relating to the life of each printer have been laboriously ascertained, and are carefully set down in proper sequence; the works produced by them are given with exhaustive collations, and there is every evidence of immense research and careful comparison; but the view which the writers have taken of the scope of their work is a narrow one. They make little or no effort to connect the progress of the art in Scotland with the history of the country itself, and they begin their book with the granting of the patent to Chepman and Myllar, without attempting to account for the very tardy introduction of the art. That a country which made such sacrifices for civil and

religious liberty, a nation so distinguished for its intellectuality as the Scotch, should have been so slow to avail itself of the marvellous powers which the invention of printing placed at the service of man is remarkable ; and Dr. Dickson might well have given a preliminary chapter to this subject. It is but fair to believe, however, that the authors made deliberate choice of the word "Annals" instead of "History."

Fully half a century elapsed between the production of the first printed book by Fust and Schœffer and the introduction of the art of printing into Scotland, and during those fifty years presses had been set up in every great continental city and also at Westminster. When James IV. granted his patent to his "lovittis servitouris Walter Chepman and Andro Myllar," printing had attained a degree of perfection which has not yet been surpassed, and at least twenty thousand works testified that the printer had not only been skilful, but industrious. Scotland had, therefore, no share in the work of perfecting the art, or in spreading the advantages which it conferred. Not only so, but even after James' royal permission had set the press to work in the capital, the results were for a long time few and unimportant.

James IV., as our authors point out, seems to have been influenced in his decision "to bring hame ane prent" by a desire to oblige his favourite, William Elphinstone, Bishop of Aberdeen, who wished "to impose his own service book upon the nation," and but for this prelate's anxiety to supersede the Sarum Breviary by his own, Scotland's first printer might not have appeared for many years later. The date of the patent granted to Chepman and Myllar was 1507, and the present volume deals with the history of printing in Scotland from that date to the end of the sixteenth century.

During that period about a dozen printers are known to have exercised their vocation in Scotland, and of each of these our authors give a detailed account. A chapter is usually devoted to the career of the printer, and one or more to a list of his productions. The biographical chapters may therefore be considered as a continuous account of the progress of printing in Scotland, and the other chapters may be regarded in the nature of appendices.

The book opens with a short but sufficient account of previous writers on the subject. Not one of these, not even Dr. David Laing, than whom no one was better able to write upon



Scottish printing, made more than a fragmentary contribution to the subject; and Dr. Dickson and Mr. Edmond have the honour, therefore, of being the first to give anything like a connected and accurate account of the progress of typography in their own country.

The first writer on the subject was John Spotswood, who, in a volume published in 1713 by James Watson, printer, entitled, *History of the Art of Printing*, gave an account of the art as practised in Scotland. Spotswood, like a patriotic Scotsman, believed that his country was in possession of the printing press at an early date; "nor could we miss being soon," he adds, "let into that art, having at the time of its invention a close and constant trade with the low countries." After all, however, the art came to Scotland from France. Save as the first work printed in Britain devoted to the history of printing, Watson's work has little value, although it brings a very large price at sales.

Ames, in his *Typographical Antiquities*, mentioned the "Aberdeen Breviary" as having probably been printed at Edinburgh in 1508-9; and Herbert, in his edition of Ames, had the privilege of publishing an account received from Mr. George Paton, Edinburgh, of the presentation to the Advocates' Library of a volume of pieces printed by Chepman and Myllar, Edinburgh, in 1508, and previous to its presentation unknown to bibliographers. It contained eleven romances of the kind so popular at the time of its production. Two of these our authors adjudge to have been printed abroad, and, for some special reason, bound up with the first products of Scotland's first press. Dr. David Laing edited a reprint of the pieces, and in his introduction gave much valuable information respecting early Scottish printing. The only other writer who deserves mention for his labours in connection with Scottish typography, and he merits very grateful mention, is George Chalmers, the author of *Caledonia*. He made the bibliography of Scotland a special study, and his *Life of Thomas Ruddiman* is brimful of interest to bibliographers. He also left much unpublished information, of which our authors have availed themselves. With a forbearance which does them credit, our authors do not even mention a work by one Dobson (not Austin) on the Bassandyne Bible, which appeared some years ago. A more barefaced piracy than this work it would be hard to imagine, and perhaps it was as well to leave it severely alone.

In the second chapter is given the patent granted by James IV. to Chepman and Myllar, "to furnis and bring hame ane prent, with all stuff belangan tharto, and expert men to use the samyne."

This patent, among other privileges, gave Chepman and Myllar a monopoly of printing in the country, and made punishable the introduction of reprints of their works.

It also provided for the use of the Bishop of Aberdeen's Breviary, and forbade the importation of that of the Sarum use. It was, therefore, a most important document, initiating printing, establishing copyright, and regulating the church service.

Of the two men to whom the work of establishing a printing press was entrusted, we know most about Chepman. He was like Gutenberg's partner, Fust, a man of means, willing to embark on a venture promising profit. He was highly esteemed by James IV., who seems to have reposed great confidence in him, and this goodwill was continued by James V.

Myllar was the practical partner, and tardy justice has at length been done him. The research of our authors has established the fact that Myllar dealt in books in 1503 and 1507, when his name appears in the patent granted by James IV. He also appears to have had printed for him at Rouen, in 1506, a book entitled *Expositio Sequentiarum*, and in the previous year another book called *The Book of Words Equivocal*. To the industry and special knowledge of M. Claudin are due the discovery of these important particulars.

The device used by Myllar in the works which he printed in conjunction with Chepman was found by M. Claudin in the two French books mentioned, and thus was established Myllar's connection with the Rouen printers—Laurence Hostingue and Jamet Loys.

It is fair to assume that Myllar knew something about printing, and it is almost certain that his partner knew nothing about it. In December, 1507, three months after the granting of the patent, Myllar is not at home, as is witnessed by a payment for books being made by the treasurer to "Andro Millaris wif," and we agree with our authors in thinking that he was in France preparing to "bring hame ane prent." "Among the stuff brocht hame" by Myllar nothing is more curious than his own device. Through the courtesy of Messrs. Macmillan and Bowes we are able to reproduce it, and we cannot do better than quote our authors' description of it.



"It displays a windmill, with a miller ascending the outside ladder, carrying a sack of grain on his back. In this Myllar follows the example of many of the early French printers, it being a common custom with them to make a punning or witty allusion to their names form a prominent feature of their marks. A shield suspended from the stem of the mill, contains a mono-



gram combining all the letters of Myllar's surname. In each of the upper corners of the device there is a small shield, charged with three fleurs-de-lis, and in the compartment at the lower margin of the mark is the name of the printer, 'Androv Myllar,' in large Gothic characters."

Dr. Dickson, in his brochure *Who was Scotland's first Printer?* claimed that honour for Myllar, and in the present volume he puts the case not the less strongly because he slightly



qualifies his first statement. All students of the subject will, we think, agree with his conclusions.

The point may seem only a sentimental one, considering how meagre were the productions of the first Scottish press; still, it was well worth settling, and it is, after all, perhaps, the most important point definitely settled in this elaborate volume on a comparatively small subject. With the warmest admiration for the knowledge and industry of Dr. Dickson and Mr. Edmond, and a feeling of great gratitude to them for setting down in so thorough a manner a record of the first century of printing in Scotland, we cannot help saying—and we feel pretty sure the authors will agree with us—that the record is one of commonplace achievement, unrelieved by a single great printer or a monumental specimen of printing.

Before leaving this part of the subject, we must not omit to mention the exhaustive description of the *Book of Sequences* given by the late Mr. Wm. Blades, whose death all bibliographers will long mourn. The description is marked by that great knowledge, thorough exactness, and admirable lucidity which distinguished all Mr. Blades' work. The Aberdeen Breviary consisted of 1,554 pages of small type, printed in red and black inks, and it was finished in 1510. Myllar's name does not occur in it, and with its completion, Chepman appears to have given up printing. Then ensues a blank of thirty or more years before we have the next well-authenticated piece of Scotch printing.

An eight-leaved sheet bound up at the end of the Glamis Castle copy of the Breviary appears from its imprint to have been printed at Edinburgh by one John Story, and Dr. Laing thought it likely that it was printed in 1520. In 1541, Thomas Davidson was chosen to print the Acts of three Parliaments of James V., and he finished the task on the 8th of February, 1541-2. Of this well-printed volume only two copies are known to exist. Davidson's greatest performance was the printing of Bellenden's translation of Boece's *Chronicles*—a fine piece of printing, and almost the only work which calls forth praise from our authors, on account of the beauty of its execution. The excessive reticence of Dr. Dickson and Mr. Edmond in this particular must be put down, we fear, to the absence of anything which they could conscientiously praise.

Davidson had as a contemporary John Scot (the first printer at St. Andrews), and Davidson and Scot were followed

by Lekpreuik, who printed at St. Andrews and Stirling, being the first printer at the latter place. Thomas Bassandyne, the printer of the first New Testament in Scotland, succeeded Lekpreuik, and had as partner and successor Alexander Arbuthnet, who completed the Bible by printing the Old Testament.

John Ross, Henry Charteris, Thomas Vautrolier, Robert Waldegrave, Robert Smyth, and Robert Charteris make up the list of sixteenth-century printers, and of each of them and their productions the volume before us contains an ample account.

The wills and inventories of the printers given are of great value and interest, as they give the prices of books, and afford the only evidence we possess of the existence of numerous books which have utterly disappeared. An annotated edition of these inventories would be a valuable addition to bibliography, and ought to be undertaken.

The limits which our authors have set themselves have necessarily precluded them from noticing Edinburgh's great printer, Andro Hart, and has also shut out all account of the introduction of printing into Glasgow, and of Glasgow's famous printers, the brothers Foulis.

Aberdeen has already been adequately treated in Mr. Edmond's *Aberdeen Printers*, a model of what such a work ought to be; and Professor Ferguson has given us an interesting, but brief, account of Glasgow printing (See '*The Library*,' March, 1889, p. 81). We earnestly hope he may be induced to take up the whole subject of Glasgow printing and publishing.

There remains enough material for another volume, similar to the one before us, if the subject were taken up from where the present volume leaves off, and carried on to 1750 or 1800. We should prefer the latter date, even with its deluge of very ordinary printers and printing, for the sake of including Dundee and Kilmarnock. May we hope for a continuation some day from Dr. Dickson and Mr. Edmond?

The printing and paper of this volume are all that a book-lover could wish, and the illustrations add much to the interest and value of the book. In bidding good-bye to this magnificent volume, we would congratulate Scotland on having at last an authoritative account of her early printing, and we must also congratulate Dr. Dickson and Mr. Edmond on the successful conclusion of a task which, however congenial, must have been heavy and prolonged.

## Provocative to a Discussion on Library Statistics.

THE monthly returns of issues, &c., from various libraries throughout the country which have been appearing in *The Library* for six months past have been successful in drawing forth some expression of opinion on the trustworthiness of library statistics, and on the methods of compiling them. It may therefore be advisable to offer a few remarks on questions arising out of such criticisms, and on what has passed under the personal observation of the writer. At this time, when so much attention is bestowed on the public library question, especially in London, a little healthy discussion on the whole subject of statistics may provoke a stimulating interchange of opinion, and perhaps lead to the common acceptance of a clear definition of what constitutes a volume, an issue, a visitor, and a borrower. It must be a matter of some astonishment to an outside observer of a calculating turn, to learn from their reports that of two town libraries, almost similar as regards size and circumstances, one has an issue equivalent to twice its whole stock of books in a month, while the other only does about half that business. Can this be accounted for by climatic influences, superior management on the part of the governing body, better premises, a more varied stock of books, or is there some reason for it all only to be explained by the librarian? We are afraid that the discrepancies so often observable, and let us add too frequently paraded in annual reports by the library most favourably represented in the comparison, are the result of very vague and conflicting definitions. Ask one librarian what constitutes a volume, and he will tell you everything bound between two boards. Ask another, and he will say a publication having a separate title-page, continuous and complete pagination, and a definite finis or halting place. A third will say that any part of a publication is a volume, and a fourth will answer that any fool (presumably including himself) knows that a volume is just a book. No. 1 will reckon twelve separate tracts bound together as one volume, give it one number and title it "pamphlets." No. 2 would count the same item as 12, and give a separate number to each volume of an ordinary novel. No. 3 very likely will give one number to an annual volume of *Chambers' Journal*, but reckon it 12 on issue. No. 4 would give one number to a three volume novel, and, to be consistent, would



treat in the same way a set of the *Encyclopædia Britannica*. Now with all this difference of opinion as to what constitutes a volume, is it surprising that among librarians arithmetic is somewhat mixed, or that statistics should be so variable? But this is the mere outskirts of the question.

When one comes to consider the issues of these variously reckoned volumes, some very odd differences become apparent. No. 1, on issuing his twelve tracts to a person asking for one of them, will count it an issue of one volume. No. 2 will most probably reckon it an issue of 12 volumes. No. 3 will certainly count it 12, and No. 4 will be largely moved by his belief in the undivisibility of books. If a reader calls for a tract, which by chance is bound along with 11 others, no matter how it is numbered, surely it can only count as one in any statistics which may be compiled of the actual number of volumes withdrawn for reading. The error here seems to consist in an over zealous desire to record what is actually given out, rather than the more legitimate, and certainly more representative fact of what is read or asked for. Basing on the fact that very many libraries give out the current parts of magazines and count them as issues of whole volumes, it has become a common thing in certain libraries to reckon as 12 volumes a bound annual volume having only a single number in the stock book. There is something to be said for counting parts issued separately to different individuals as legitimate issues, though we are inclined to think they should be included in a distinct enumeration; but why the same parts as collected, bound, and numbered with a single number, should, when given out to an individual reader, be reckoned 12, 6, or perhaps 30 or 100 as in the case of patents specifications we are quite unable to see. It is like the effort of a sharp pot-boy who gives an appearance of great quantity to a measure of ale by frothing it up to and over the brim. On the other hand there seems no good reason for reckoning the issue of a three-volume novel as of one volume only, unless we ascribe the proceeding to a librarian's too sensitive feeling regarding the excessive use of fiction. There does not appear to be the same hesitation to count Carlyle's *Life* as two or four, and we can only say that in endeavouring to reduce the total issues of fiction, a misrepresentation is made of the actual work accomplished by the library. As the stock of the library is always reckoned by volumes, why should their issues not be similarly counted?

The next point to be considered is, what is a visitor? In some

libraries a visit is reckoned as a visitor, whereas twenty visits may be made on the same day by one individual. Is there any reason at all why the word visitor should be used under the circumstances? Considering that 300 persons may among them make 500 visits to the news and reading rooms of a library, it seems right to assume that a count of individuals cannot be maintained. There is no means existing of determining the exact number of visitors using a library, and it would be reasonable to speak of *visits* only in any compilation of statistics of this nature. How to get anything like accuracy in the number of visits, even with a turnstile, is a problem which has never been solved. Actual counts continuously kept should give the best approximation to the truth, but averages of occasional counts made daily, hourly or otherwise are quite untrustworthy. The methods adopted for *frothing* the returns of visits to libraries are as numerous as they are ingenious. The hourly count is perhaps the most ingenious of any. Recipe:—Make an enumeration every hour throughout the day of the persons found present in the rooms, add them all together and serve up cold, as the number of visitors who have used the library! The Arcadian innocence of this method of counting the same persons over and over again is really superb. When we come to the question of borrowers belonging to a public library, we are at once confronted with the difficulty arising out of the various methods by which they are registered and numbered. Tickets are issued for one, two or three years, and are numbered by periods, continuously, or in a certain series. Owing to overlapping in the numbering by periods and series, tickets being cancelled or never claimed, a difficulty usually occurs in ascertaining the actual number of borrowers on the register. A method which has been found to work very well consists in bestowing on a borrower's card a number which is permanent, and by which the reader is identified so long as he uses the library. When the ticket is returned, or it is cancelled, the number is noted and afterwards applied to a new reader in a succeeding period. The number of the last voucher consequently gives the net total of borrowers on the register, unless a few cancels have to be appropriated, when they must be deducted. We know this is not the method employed in many libraries, but it certainly secures a degree of correctness not usually attainable, and as the question is deserving of some attention the system here described may serve as a provocative to discussion. When the number of borrowers connected with a library first figured in these monthly



returns, many librarians evidently gave the number of borrowers who had used the library during the month, and not the net number enrolled. This caused some confusion, but the returns as recently given seem to show the actual number of readers on the register.

These are a few of the anomalies which present themselves in the consideration of issue statistics when confined to totals, but they are multiplied a hundred-fold when the classification of the same totals comes to be attempted. Classification itself is in a state of chaos, not only as regards general principles but with respect to the comparatively simple matter of allocating books, after the classes themselves are fixed. When we see two library schemes agreeing in having similar classes appropriated to (1) Topography and Travel; (2) Arts and Sciences; and find, notwithstanding, that Markham's work on Peruvian Bark is treated as Topography in one, and as Botanical Science in the other, we are inclined to regard the whole system of classified statistics as utterly fallacious. If these disagreements as to the class of certain works were only of occasional occurrence, the matter would be unworthy of serious consideration; but when it is so very common to find the most hopeless differences of opinion continually appearing, it seems useless to hope for, let alone attempt, any uniformity in the methods of classification.

Another element which enters into the question of book issues is the period allowed for reading. Some libraries give only seven days, others give fourteen; and all exact fines on books kept beyond the stipulated time, varying from 1d. to 7d. a week, if renewals are not made. Without doubt the libraries allowing only seven days for the free perusal of a book, should have the largest turn-over, and this ought to be borne in mind in making any comparison between places; but we distinctly deprecate comparisons on any ground whatever. Librarians are sufficiently jealous as it is, without having added to their contentiousness anything touching the rival claims of their respective institutions on popular favour. The publication of statistics on a uniform basis dealing with totals only we regard as a most important matter, and one with which the general public are as much interested as librarians. Comparative statistics, whether of reference or lending departments, are utterly useless because of the different circumstances of each library, various methods of compilation, and all sorts of variations between currency of tickets, times of opening and closing, days



allowed for reading, proportion of fiction available, &c., &c.; but there can be little doubt of the right of the public to information compiled on a common system regarding the use made of institutions maintained out of the rates. We have vital, trade, educational, and criminal statistics compiled on certain definite principles by the Government, and there seems no reason why library statistics should not be taken on a common basis. By way of fostering a discussion—and we know there are many librarians eager to relieve their souls on this subject—we submit the following proposals for the uniform compilation of statistics, with apologies to the elders of the craft for troubling them with elementary matters which they settled for themselves long before the L. A. U. K. was dreamt of:—

1.—A volume, both for stock book and issue purposes, to be regarded (*a*) as any work with a title-page, continuous and complete pagination, and a *finis*; (*b*) a part of a work having a separate title-page, complete pagination and a definite halting place (*e.g.*, end of Volume I. or III.); any tract or pamphlet complete in itself. All parts or divisions of publications, no matter how published, which simply represent sections of annual volumes, or have pagination only in completion or continuation of a sequence, not to be reckoned as volumes; excepting for *issue* purposes, *if issued separately*, such publications as Dr. Murray's *New English Dictionary*, when not bound into vols. See 2.

2.—Issues to be reckoned by volumes and not works, as above. The issues of unbound serial publications in parts for home-reading to be separately enumerated.

3.—The number of visits to the news or reading rooms, if kept, to be stated as an approximation obtained by actual count made throughout the whole of different week-days during each month, and averaged.

4.—The *net* number of borrowers enrolled or existing on the register throughout the year to be given.

A body of statistics compiled according to these principles of reckoning should be valuable as showing the work accomplished in any library, because the results are obtained by a commonly understood process. We have not attempted to consider the various methods of registering issues at the moment of service, as it is assumed that the utmost vigilance will be exercised to assure due record being made of every volume given out. Very few librarians seem to use the application form in their lending departments, though it unquestionably furnishes the

most satisfactory method of securing an accurate record of issues, and we should be very glad to learn on what grounds, apart from the supposed trouble put upon readers, the *viva voce* system of calling for books is preferred. On glancing over these notes we find that we have omitted to make the customary acknowledgment of the superiority of American methods. No doubt our trans-Atlantic brethren are half-a-century ahead of us in the matter of statistics as in everything else, though we have been unable to find much trace of agreement or special characteristics, and we hasten to mortify ourselves accordingly. When we find that in America chemical analysis has been brought to bear upon the composition of pastes, and that general library nomenclature exhibits (by reason of its higher development) a pretty cross between Volapük and a telegraphic code, we must conclude that a small matter like issue records has been long since dealt with in a thoroughly scientific and superior spirit. In conclusion, we commend the whole question to the earnest consideration of the L. A. U. K., in the hope that something like an approximation to uniformity may be threshed out in discussion.



## THE LIBRARY CHRONICLE.

### Findings.

IN a recent account of "Galignani's Retreat," at Neuilly, near Paris, a charitable institution founded by Messrs. A. & W. Galignani, the well-known publishers, it is stated that the library of the institution consists of 2,000 volumes, the generous gift of the Paris Printers, and Booksellers' Club. All the volumes are uniformly bound and bear the arms of the club. The pensioners may borrow the books and read them in their rooms, but they must be returned at the end of a month.

WE have received from the publishers, Messrs. Mawson, Swan, and Morgan, of Newcastle-on-Tyne, a prospectus of a most interesting book shortly to be published, entitled—*Ye Apothecarie: his Booke of Receipts agaynst alle maner of sickenesses; allso howe to bake meates, to make Uskabaughe, to die clothe or woole, and diuers usefull things besydes*. The book is to be produced in lithograph facsimile of the original manuscript, which dates from Elizabeth's reign. The recipes seem to indicate that our English forefathers must have had marvellous powers of digestion, to bear the gruesome "brothes, poulders, and dyett drinckes" of the ancient Apothecary. "Half a peck of earthworms," the "lunes of a fox," the "harte of a toade" are remedies which would shake the nerves of the modern invalid. A portion of the work is devoted to such household matters as "To make cruddes and creame," "To make Uskabaughe," and there is also "A note of Mrs. Barbara, her lessons on ye Virginalle," which include compositions by Mr. Bird, organist to Queen Elizabeth, and by Dr. Bull, the reputed composer of our National Anthem. The book will be supplied to subscribers at 12s. 6d.

DR. PHILIP SCHAFF has sent an interesting account of the Vatican Library to the *New York Independent*. He vindicates the management from the frequent charges of illiberality. The library is open on about 200 days of the year from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.; in winter from 8 to 12. The librarian he found always very polite and helpful. The library is said to contain 25,000 Latin, Greek and Oriental manuscripts, and 50,000 printed, though one of the sub-librarians said that the number of printed books exceeded 200,000. The manuscripts are by far the most important part, and make it, in Dr. Schaff's opinion, the most valuable library in the world. The printed catalogues of various sections of the library are enumerated, and it is stated that Pope Leo XIII. has ordered the preparation of a full catalogue. Rome has many other important libraries besides the Vatican, all being administered with great liberality.

IT is scarcely our business to review novels, but we may for once go out of our way to congratulate a young librarian on a successful beginning in this department of literature. We have received a copy of the second edition of Mr. Wm. E. Doubleday's *Heiress of Haddon*. Though in the guise and at the price of the "shilling shocker," Mr. Doubleday's work gives indication of careful historical reading, and, in spite of youthful crudities, is full of promise.

WE have not been overwhelmed with letters about the Bureau, and in spite of a heavy correspondence, we have been able to answer "by return" those we have received. But "the fewer men the greater share of honour," and we shall not be easily disheartened. Curiously enough, our most hearty encouragement comes from over-sea. Mr. Melvil Dewey, with characteristic enthusiasm, offers all kinds of help and



assistance, and, with true American disdain of space, speaks lightly of Mr. Davidson, the secretary of the American Bureau, making "a short trip across to see you about it." We shall certainly make a start and do our best to earn that encouragement which John Bull never fails to generously bestow on an assured success. A little help *in advance* would perhaps be kinder, but then it would not be business!

MISS JAMES in her admirable paper on the People's Palace related several amusing anecdotes of her experiences with readers, and suggested that if all librarians were to send to *The Library* notes of the "good things" they meet with in their daily work our deadly dull pages would be enlivened, and in time a collection of the humours of libraries worth preserving would be gathered.

The idea is a good one, and we should like to see it carried out. Of course every librarian is before all things a serious person and would no doubt "jock wi' deeficulty," but even the most solemn of the craft knows at least one funny story of libraries and their users. Let him send it at once.

MR. PASSMORE EDWARDS, who recently gave £20,000 to the Bethnal Green Free Library, has announced his intention of spending £50,000 during the next five years in forming libraries in villages throughout the country.

## Opening of the Edinburgh Free Public Library.

SPEECH BY LORD ROSEBERY.

My Lord Provost, Ladies and Gentlemen,—I am exceedingly grateful to you for this beautiful remembrance which you have handed to me of this most interesting ceremony. The key will remind me of the opening of the library, and the casket in which it is enshrined will be none the less grateful to me because it is formed out of the remains of that house from which sprang the family of my gallant and patriotic young neighbour, Lord Hopetoun. But, my Lord Provost, I confess that a feeling comes over me to-day that I am not the right man in the right place. The right person to open this library is Mr. Carnegie himself, but Mr. Carnegie appears to think that a division of labour is a proper course for all human events to pursue, and that, whereas he is always giving libraries, I am always to open them. Already I have opened one that he has given in Dunfermline, and to-day it is my privilege to open that much larger one that he has given to the capital of the country of his birth. Well, my Lord Provost has told you how glad I was to be able to obey your commands, but had I been free to nominate my successor I should certainly have refused the honour. I should have said to myself that the right man to open a library of this kind, failing Mr. Carnegie, is Professor Masson—Professor Masson so identified with letters, so identified with Edinburgh, so identified with hard work in connection with this library. But, ladies and gentlemen, as I had no guarantee that I should be allowed to name my deputy, I was obliged to perform the ceremony myself. Now, Mr. Carnegie has been thanked, and justly thanked, for many things; but it seems to me that the gratitude of Edinburgh has not yet been put on exactly the right ground; which is, that Mr. Carnegie enabled Edinburgh to make up its mind. On two former occasions Edinburgh had been led forward to make the fatal leap into the system of free libraries, and twice Edinburgh had shrunk back. But on this third occasion Mr. Carnegie came forward and applied an argument so powerful, so weighty, so direct,

so clear from the heart to the heart, that it overcame all the reluctance of our ancient city. Well, my Lord Provost, it would seem that, however historical your site may be, it is in some sense bringing coals to Newcastle to plant a library in this particular spot, because just across the street you have a building which contains no less than three libraries—one of them one of the noblest in Great Britain. Across the street you have in the same building that contains the Parliament House, the Advocates' Library, the Signet Library and the Solicitors' Library; and to come and put down a fourth in face of these collections of renown would seem to be almost a work of superfluity. But the fact is that the Advocates' Library is not in a condition to meet the demand which this library will supply. It is the property of a great corporation, and that great corporation could not, without serious inconvenience to their own work, throw open the library in the way in which this library is to be thrown open. And as regards that of the Signet and that of the Solicitors', they also belong to corporations, and are I believe in effect two close rather than open libraries. Well, at any rate, if this has been a work of superfluity to the outward eye, planting a fourth library within this limited space, I must congratulate the projectors of it that they have planted it on classic ground. It is to a spot close here that we may trace the revival or renaissance of Scottish publishing, of Scottish interest in books; for it was close here, as I understand—but my friend Mr. Dunlop will be ready to correct me if I am wrong—that Mr. Creech, who was the first of Edinburgh publishers of the new era, had his shop, and not merely his shop but his *levée*—for the building in which that worthy man lived was the literary centre of Edinburgh in a way, perhaps, that no other building has since been. Mr. Creech was one of your predecessors, my lord, in the chair, and he was for forty-four years, I think, a leading bookseller and publisher in Edinburgh. The same year that took away Napoleon from Europe took away Creech, but his throne had been already undermined. 1802 had witnessed the appearance of the *Edinburgh Review*, close to this spot, in the shop of Constable. The dynasty of Constable superseded the dynasty of Creech; but, gentlemen, when I attribute the foundation of our Edinburgh revival of letters to Creech, I am not of course going further back than need be—I am not going back to Chepman, Myllar, and the patent of James IV. in 1507. I am not even going back to that of Mr. Strahan, the eminent publisher of the last century, but who left this country for England and who remained in England; I am speaking purely of times within our own ken, and events within our own reach. I say the dynasty of Creech was followed and overcome by the dynasty of Constable, representing the *Edinburgh Review*. But when we come to ask for the *Edinburgh Review*, which produced so marked an effect in making Edinburgh a centre of letters for the United Kingdom, we are driven to ask the fatal question, what has become of the *Edinburgh Review*? Its name is "Ichabod," which, being freely translated, is "It has gone to London." Then, my Lord Provost, we come to the Blackwoods. The dynasty of Blackwood followed on the dynasty of Constable, and in 1817 they founded that magazine which still flourishes among us, as to which it would be perhaps difficult for me to offer an unrestrained and unmitigated homage of compliment, but as to which I may say that we all feel an honest pride in the literary finish which adorns that magazine, and in the pluck and in the enterprise which has kept it flourishing when so many of its rivals have gone underground. Well, since then there have been so many dynasties that I hardly dare to reckon them up, and as they are now represented by so many living representatives it would, perhaps, be invidious to make a selection. But I might signalise two names—names of men, both, alas! passed away—the name of Chambers and the name of Nelson, as representing not



merely great publishers, but great publishers who devoted their earnings to the beautifying of their native city. I may mention, for the same sad reason, Adam Black, another of your predecessors in the chair, and beyond that I will not step, because I would not name any living publisher. But I would venture to name a living book, and to say that within the last two years a book has come out—I do not know if I am strangely fascinated by it—which I think one of the most beautiful examples of printing and what is called technically “get-up” that has possibly been produced in the present century—I mean those two little volumes which are called *Major Fraser’s Manuscript*. That little book, I think, if no other, would sufficiently prove that the hand of Edinburgh had not lost its cunning in that department. We have also an apostolic succession of booksellers from Creech ; but I will not dwell on these, because they are too numerous. But I will mention one ancient name in connection with that trade, and only one name—the name of one still happily among us—the ancient name of Stillie. Now, Mr. Stillie links us with the remotest past to which I have alluded, because as a child, I take it, he might perfectly well have seen Mr. Creech,\* and as a boy he acted, I believe, as “printer’s devil” to Sir Walter Scott, and waited on the stairs reading the proof-sheets of the novels, while “the Great Unknown,” as he still was then, was correcting other proof-sheets for him to take away. Well, gentlemen, I think I have said enough to show this, that Edinburgh without a free library of this kind was like men starving in the midst of a granary, and that we owe all honour to that large-souled Burgess of Edinburgh, Mr. Carnegie, for his timely gift. But we owe all honour also to our committee. Our committee have worked hard, and have a good record of work to show. In the first place, I would venture to name my friend on my right, Sir Thomas Clark, who has taken so strenuous a part in this business, in conjunction with Professor Masson and with the committee, of whom two are representative artisans. What is the record of work they have to show us? They have spent £15,000 in books, and they have got together some 58,000 volumes—4,000 in the juvenile lending department, 34,000 in the lending department, and 20,000 in the reference department. That seems to me a noble aggregate for the time in which they have worked. They propose to open their reference library and news-room, as I understand, next Monday. They open their lending library on the 1st July. And I think that we owe them a tribute for having brought the library into working condition in so short a time. Now, gentlemen, I would further ask what sort of books these are? These are not rarities, as I take it, but tools—working tools. The collecting of rare books is a virtue very nearly akin to a vice. It is a virtue which some of us have seen degenerate in our own selves into a vice, and it is a virtue on which the closest watch requires to be taken for fear it should lapse into a moral disease. But in this case there is nothing of that kind. These books have been got together to use, and not merely to be idols. The other day I was opening a library of this kind in London ; and I ventured to say that the great change which had come over libraries since the illustrious libraries of the last and preceding centuries was this, that there had come into them the “thumb-mark of the artisan ;” and I was a good deal criticised by a licentious press for using that remark. It was pointed out that hands should be washed before books should be used. But they did not understand what I meant. It is always the fate of public men to be misunderstood, and I was cruelly misunderstood on that occasion. I did not mean a black thumb-mark such as one occasionally sees in a book with much the same sensation as Robinson Crusoe felt, when he saw the footprint of Friday in the sand, with alarm

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\* As a matter of fact he did.



and dismay; but a gradual trituration by constant use—that wear and tear caused by finger and thumb which is almost an ennobling mark on any book, by any author. I was speaking of use, not of abuse. Why, ladies and gentlemen, if I were supposed to commend black thumb-marks in books I might sink to worse horrors still. I will not speak of those atrocities committed by Darwin, who, when his book was too heavy, divided it in two or three so that it might be lighter to hold, or cut out paragraphs to paste in books, and has left, not a library, but a collection of shapeless fragments behind him. I do not speak of marginal notes, such as “how true,” “how beautiful,” “how horrible,” “I hope that Reginald will marry Maria,” “how strange that they should have met in the wood at this moment,” and all these painful vestiges of the unreflective reader. Nor do I mean that lesser but not altogether venial form of iniquity which consists in laying a book open face downwards on a table until there is sufficient leisure to resume it. No, I am just as unwilling to cover one sin as another. I view all these iniquities with the greatest horror; but what I meant by the thumb-mark of the artisan was this, that those books in free libraries are meant, not to be preserved behind glass doors, but to die in the service of mankind. There is a passage in Swift in the “Tale of a Tub,” which expresses what I mean much better than I can say it. He says that “books, like men, their authors, have no more than one way of coming into the world, but there are ten thousand ways of going out of it.” Well, then, I say, these books we mean to die in work—die leaving on the human mind their glacier marks behind them. We feel, in seeing these books in use—*morituri morituros salutamus*—we, perishable men, salute you, perishable books, because we know that, unlike us, you cannot pass away naturally without leaving the effects of your work behind you. And what a work that is. What would Burns have given, what would Hugh Miller have given, what might they both have been had they had access from their birth to such a free library as this? It was said once that every French soldier bore in his knapsack the potential baton of a field-marshal. In this library there lies for all the means of potential eminence, of potential greatness. There lies much more—the arsenal of the weapons of civilisation. In one of Charles Reade’s novels there is a character that goes about Europe saying to every man he meets, “Courage, friend; the devil is dead.” The devil is not dead. Whatever the powers of darkness may be, they reign; but they reign, we trust and believe, in diminished force. The powers of civilisation are, as I believe, gradually encroaching on the powers of darkness. Just as that great discoverer whom you are to welcome here to-day has dragged a streak of light across the secular darkness that overhung the African continent, so it will be well for many discoverers in a smaller way than himself to take their means of enlightenment from this library, and let their life be marked by some little streak of light when they leave it. And it is this idea of light that prevails throughout on this occasion. Your founder has had the august words placed over the door, “Let there be light.” That sublime hymn that we sung at the commencement of the proceedings, “Lead, kindly light,” touched the same note; and that grand old cardinal of English name who wrote it, would, I know, feel, if our voices could reach him in his retirement, that it had been sung on no better and no nobler occasion than this. Well, gentlemen, encouraged by such examples, we may proceed. I do not know if I am not venturing on forbidden ground in mentioning one example by which we may be cheered; but you will know that I am not speaking of politics, but I am speaking of an illustrious man and of a dear friend, when I say that every student who comes to this library may be cheered by the sight of Mr.

Gladstone in his old age, not as a politician or as a statesman, but as a learner and a reader, ever with his books, ever among his books, in his eighty-first year, ever trying to learn something, as if he had half-a-century of years yet before him in which to work—nay, but truly as with eternity before him. And gentlemen, in the spirit in which he has laboured, working with his books beside him, let us also work. The builders of Jerusalem raised their city with the trowel in one hand and the sword in the other. Let us, let the masses who raise our social structure, endeavour to seek even a higher ideal, and work with the trowel in one hand and the book in the other. For work without knowledge is only a treadmill, but work guided by knowledge is the Archimedean lever that shall move the world.

## Library Notes and News.

*The Editor earnestly requests that librarians and others will send to him early and accurate information as to all local Library doings. The briefest record of facts and dates is all that is required, and all contributions used will be paid for. Contributors should send a memorandum of their contributions to the Editor at the end of each quarter, and a remittance will be promptly forwarded.*

*In course of time "Library Notes and News" will become of the utmost value to the historian of the Free Library movement, and it is therefore of the highest importance that every paragraph should be vouched for by local knowledge.*

BANBRIDGE, IRELAND.—The Town Commissioners have received the offer from a lady and gentleman in Belfast, to provide the town with a public library and its accessories, on condition that the Free Libraries Act is adopted. The sum proposed to be expended is about £7,000, and, in addition to the library, it is the intention of the donors to erect an assembly hall, museum, and gymnasium. The offer was unanimously and heartily accepted by the Commissioners, and no time will be lost in ascertaining the wishes of the inhabitants on the matter.

BANCHORY, near ABERDEEN.—On June 6th, a new public library for Banchory, founded chiefly by the amalgamation of several small libraries in the district, was opened by Mr. Esslemont, M.P. For the present there will be a subscription fee of 3s. a year, charged to users of the library, but Mr. Esslemont urged the desirability of the adoption of the Libraries Act.

CARDIFF.—Dr. William Taylor, late chairman of the Public Library Committee, has resigned after a service of twenty-six years on the Committee, and his late colleagues have presented him with an address in testimony of their esteem for his eminent services.

CARLISLE.—The committee of the Mechanics' Institute have offered to the Mayor and Corporation, in trust for the citizens, their freehold premises in Fisher Street, their library and other effects, upon the condition that steps are taken to secure the adoption of the Public Libraries Act, and make the transferred property of the Mechanics' Institute the basis of a free library. At an enthusiastic meeting on June 9th, the Libraries Acts were unanimously adopted.

DERBY.—Mr. W. H. Walton has been appointed assistant librarian of the Derby Free Library, in succession to Mr. Charles Courtney, who has received an appointment at Camberwell,



EDINBURGH.—The Edinburgh Mechanics' Library has just been removed from Riddle's Close, Lawnmarket, to No. 22, St. Giles Street. Mr. J. Cochrane has been appointed librarian.

EDINBURGH.—This important free library was formally opened on 9th June. The speech delivered on the occasion by Lord Rosebery, will be found fully reported on another page.

KIDDERMINSTER.—Mr. A. F. Godson, M.P. for Kidderminster, has contributed £200 towards the building fund of the proposed new free library.

LEWISHAM.—A large and enthusiastic meeting, in support of the proposal to adopt the Public Library Acts, was held at Lewisham on Wednesday, June 11th, under the presidency of Lord Lewisham, M.P., who was supported by Canon Legge, vicar of the parish, Rev. J. Morlais Jones, Rev. E. C. Robinson, Dr. Lockhart, Mr. E. W. Brabrook, Mr. Cecil T. Davis, of the Wandsworth Public Library, and others. The meeting unanimously passed a resolution in favour of the Acts being adopted. A poll will be taken before the end of June.

LONDON LIBRARY.—The Forty-ninth Annual Meeting of the members of the London Library was held on May 29th, when the chairman (Sir M. E. Grant Duff) congratulated the members on the continued course of prosperity which the Library had enjoyed. The circulation of volumes during the past year was 117,000. The income amounted to £5,549. Miss Cahill urged the appointment of a lady on the committee, but as one had not been nominated, the suggestion could not be acted on at that meeting.

LONDON : PADDINGTON.—A Browning enthusiast has written to the papers to urge the founding of a public library, to receive the name of the "Browning Library," in the parish of Paddington.

LONDON : POPLAR.—A proposal has been set on foot to establish a free public library for Poplar under the Act. To practically carry the proposal into effect, a committee consisting of well-known local men has been formed. It is intended to hold public meetings in the neighbourhood, and distribute pamphlets to further the scheme.

LONDON : ROTHERHITHE.—Mr. Mariller, formerly proprietor and teacher of a grammar school at Rotherhithe, has been appointed librarian of the free library.

LONDON : ST. GEORGE'S.—On June 12th a public meeting was held at St. George's Vestry Hall to consider the question of the establishment of free libraries in that parish. Sir John Lubbock, Bart., M.P., presided, and in opening the proceedings said, that it had been his good fortune to be present at many such meetings as this. "I have," said he, "been good-humouredly laughed at for having said that ignorance costs more than knowledge. There is a general impression that the cost of education is increasing, but as a matter of fact, elementary schools cost something under £8,000,000." Continuing, Sir John said "that had it not been for education, with its adjuncts of libraries and science and art departments, the criminal and pauper statistics would have been much greater than they now are. They were now beginning to realise that education should last through life; that the education of our children should not be a mere matter of grammar and words, but should include some training of the hand and eye; so, on the other hand, the life of the grown-up man and woman should not be altogether devoted to work with the hands, to the pursuit of money, but that they should devote some time to the acquisition of knowledge and the improvement of their minds. The object



of free libraries and schools for the grown-up, as indeed of education generally, was not to raise one man above another, but to elevate all alike; to enable everyone to take 'the stately care of his own worth.' Years would pass and generations succeed one another, but your free library will still remain, and for ages to come your people will have cause to remember with gratitude those through whose exertions this great boon will have been secured." The Rev. Teignmouth Shore moved a resolution to the effect that it was desirable to establish free libraries, and this was carried. A poll was taken on the 24th June:—Result for, 3,155; against, 2,401. The West End has thus worthily, if tardily, vindicated its character for wise generosity, and it will be shame to Marylebone and Paddington if they lag behind.

LONDON: STREATHAM.—The new library which, together with the site, is to be presented to the parish of Streatham by Mr. Henry Tate, has just been begun. It is situated in the main road, and will be built in Grecian style, with a facing of Portland stone. The cost, exclusive of site, will be about £6,000. The builders are Messrs. Higgs and Hill, and the architect Mr. Sidney R. J. Smith.

MANCHESTER.—An effort is being made to extend the claims of a library which has been formed in Manchester for the use of girls who work in mills. Miss Harrison, 138, Upper Brook Street, Manchester, is the librarian.

OSWESTRY.—The Free Libraries Acts were unanimously adopted on May 21st at a public meeting of the ratepayers of Oswestry. The Town Council had previously debated the subject and passed a resolution recommending the adoption of the Acts. A large town library, now in the hands of trustees, will be handed over to the Town Council, and provision for housing it will be made by the Council in the new municipal buildings about to be erected.

OXFORD.—The Oxford City Council have decided to open the public library on Sunday evenings for five months in the year, commencing in November.

PLUMSTEAD.—The result of the poll in Plumstead shows that the proposition to have a free library is finding favour, the number of dissentients being very considerably less than when the parish was polled two years ago. The voting papers were counted on May 20th, with the following result:—Against the scheme, 2,857; for the library, 2,291; majority against, 566.

RUGBY.—Mr. R. H. Wood, of Rugby, has offered to the town a building for a museum and institute. After careful consideration as to the best way to maintain the proposed institution, the local board have decided to recommend the adoption of the Free Libraries Act, and to convene a public meeting to take the opinion of the ratepayers.

SALISBURY.—The result of the poll at Salisbury as to the adoption of the Public Libraries Act was made known on June 2nd, the figures being:—For the proposal, 894; against, 856.

STRATFORD-ON-AVON.—Mr. C. E. Flower, chairman of the Shakespeare Memorial Library, has added to his former liberal gifts a donation of £1,000 to the library fund, £100 to be expended immediately, and £900 to be applied to the endowment fund. The librarian, Mr. A. H. Wall, in his annual report states that "the past year brought a much larger number of visitors than the memorial has ever before attracted, and some who came with false impressions of its character and purpose were converted, not only into approving friends, but enthusiastic supporters, Shakespearians of all kinds, learned and unlearned, obscure and famous, high and low, evincing a loving interest in our progress, and in many cases giving practical demonstrations of sincerity in the way of gifts."

RATING OF PUBLIC LIBRARIES.—The *South London Press* has the following remarks on this subject:—"The Commissioners of those Public Libraries which have been rated—and rather heavily rated—by the Assessment Committees are loud in their complaints, and not without reason. The income with which they have to carry on their good work is strictly limited to a halfpenny or a penny in the pound. They cannot, like the School Board, make a precept to cover their expenses and supply their wants. They have only resources in nine cases out of ten inadequate to their needs. By Act of Parliament, certain literary and scientific institutions are exempt from rates, and surely a public library might with justice claim the same privilege. In fact, where a public library is established, every parishioner over the age of fourteen—or whatever age the Commissioners may fix—is at once made a member of the Parochial Literary Institute. There ought to be some general rule for dealing with the assessment of public libraries. The Assessment Committee have called upon the Battersea Library Commissioners to pay rates for their buildings. This will reduce by a hundred or so a-year the income which, for a few years to come at least, will be found all too little for the work which has to be done. Other South London parishes which have adopted the Free Libraries Act have not only been generously treated by private donors but by parochial bodies, who have helped in every way to further a good work. The wisdom of rating a parochial institution which is itself supported by rates is questionable. It is only transferring money from one pocket to another—and losing something in transit in the shape of collectors' poundage. If, however, the Assessment Committee think they must charge rates, they should at least treat Battersea as other richer parishes are treated, and make the rate on the library—a rate-saving institution—merely nominal."

LIBRARIANS OF THE MERSEY DISTRICT.—The eighth quarterly meeting was held on June 6th, at the Reference Library, King Street, Manchester, the attendance being larger than at any previous meeting. After tea, Mr. Sutton took the chair. Among the exhibits were a rack-support for end books, invented by Professor Lund, and a form of "Notification of Infectious Disease," used in connection with the Manchester Free Libraries. The subject of the "Responsibility of Guarantors" was further discussed, *apropos* of a recent case reported in *The Library*. Mr. Formby read a short "Note on Poole's Index," pointing out the inconveniences of the plan of reference adopted; which necessitates frequent application to a cumbrous "conspectus," and suggesting the year as a more satisfactory datum than a (sometimes arbitrarily fixed) volume number. In this opinion a majority of the speakers concurred. Mr. May exhibited specimens of book-covers made of printed cotton and satteen lined with paper; and described in detail the process of manufacture and the cost. He recommended the covers as useful for the preservation of rich and the concealment of shabby bindings. The meeting then took up the discussion of "The Higher Aims of a Librarian, a paper on the subject, in the absence of the writer, being postponed to another opportunity. Upon the invitation of Mr. Newman, it was agreed that the next meeting should be held at Southport, in October.

CHARLES MADELEY, *Hon. Sec.*

### Obituary.

MR. ROBERT WILSON SMILES, who died on May 28th at the age of 74, was a native of Haddington, and a younger brother of the author of *Self-Help*. He spent many years in Lancashire as a journalist, and as



secretary of the Public Schools' Association and from 1858 to 1864, held the position of chief librarian of the Manchester Free Library. On his removal to London, he devoted himself chiefly to literature and journalism.

## Record of Bibliography and Library Literature.

Epître adressée à Robert Gaguin le 1<sup>er</sup> Janvier, 1472, par Guillaume Fichet, sur l'introduction de l'imprimerie à Paris. Reproduction héliographique de l'exemplaire unique possédé par l'Université de Bâle. à Paris, chez H. Champion, 1889. 8vo, pp. 5. [x.]

The letter here reproduced in facsimile under the editorship of M. Delisle was discovered two or three years ago by M. Louis Sieber, the librarian of the University of Basle. It belongs to a treatise on orthography, published at the Sorbonne in 1472, other copies of which exist, but without the letter. M. Sieber published a transcript of this precious document in 1887, but French bibliographers naturally desired to possess a facsimile of a treasure so interesting in the history of French printing, and this is now placed within their reach. The letter is already well known to most students of the history of printing, but it is pleasant to transcribe from it Fichet's enthusiastic eulogies on the art he helped to introduce into France, and we therefore append the sentences in which they occur, indicating the contractions by means of italics:—*Ferunt enim illic haut procul a ciuitate Maguncia ioannem quendam fuisse cui cognomen bonemontano, qui primus omnium impressoriam artem excogitauerit, qua non calamo (ut prisci quidem illi) neque penna (ut nos fingimus) sed æreis litteris libri finguntur, & quidem expedite polite & pulchre, Dignus sane hic uir fuit quem omnes musæ omnes artes omnesque eorum linguæ qui libris delectantur diuinis laudibus ornent, eoque magis dis deabusque anteposant quo propius ac presentius litteris ipsis ac studiosis hominibus suffragium tulit . . . Neque presertim hoc loco nostros silebo, qui superant iam arte magistrum, quorum Vdalricus Michael ac Martinus principes esse dicuntur, qui iam pridem Gasparini pergamensis epistolas impresserunt, quas ioannes lapidanus emendauit; quin illius auctoris orthographiam (quam hic etiam accurate correxit) se accingunt perficere.*—Thus does Fichet sound the praise not only of Gutenberg, but of the three printers, Ulric Gering, Michael Crantz and Martin Friburger, whom he himself with Jean de La Pierre, installed at the Sorbonne, and bibliographers of all nations may well congratulate M. Louis Sieber on his lucky find of so interesting a letter.

A List, based on the Registers of the Stationers' Company, of 837 London Publishers, who were by trade printers, engravers, booksellers, bookbinders, &c., &c., between 1553 and 1640 A.D., being a master key to English Bibliography during a period in which almost all authorised books were printed in the Metropolis, excepting principally a number which from 1584-85 onwards came from the University Presses of Cambridge and Oxford. By Edward Arber, F.S.A., 35, Wheelleys Road, Birmingham, England, May 1, 1890. 4to, pp. 32.

All students of English bibliography will give a hearty welcome to this advance issue of Professor Arber's *List of London Publishers*, not



only for its own sake—though, as we hope to show, it is in itself of the highest value—but because it bids us hope that the long-expected Index-volume to Professor Arber's great work will soon make its appearance. The instalment now issued consists, as its rather voluminous title imports, of a list of 837 printers and publishers of London, with entries of all assignments both to and from them, and of the dates of the first and last entries in the Registers of the Stationers' Company under their names. According to Professor Arber, his list contains altogether 864 publishers and printers, viz. :

- 7 Patentees for books, for the most part personally unconnected with the London book trade.
- 837 Individual London publishers, whether members of the Stationers' Company or not.
  - 1 London bookseller (Anthony Harris), who apparently never published anything.
  - 3 University printers (J. Barnes, C. Legge and J. Leggatt).
  - 1 Dutch printer at Norwich (Anthony de Solempne).
  - 6 County booksellers who published books, &c., that were printed for them in London (J. Bulkley at Canterbury, E. Dight and C. Hunt at Exeter, G. Pen at Ipswich, and E. Casson and N. Colman at Norwich).
  - 10 Authors or other persons for whom books were printed in London, some of them apparently being privately printed.

864

Possibly some future gleaner may add the names of a few more patentees or a few more printers of unregistered books, but for all practical purposes the list may be regarded as complete, and herein lies its utility. Probably the best of its predecessors was the Index of Printers and Publishers at the end of the British Museum Catalogue of books printed before 1640. A few instances, chosen at random, will show how Prof. Arber's list supplements and extends this index. Thus from the books in its possession the Museum was only able to say that William Ponsonby printed from 1579 to 1603; the *List* extends this period at each end by giving the dates as 1577 to 1604. Matthew Lownes in the Index is shown as printing between 1596 and 1625; in the *List* between 1596 to 1627. So in the case of Edward Blount, for 1598-1632 we are given 1594-1632, and in that of Christopher Barker for 1575-1599, 1569-1599. The discrepancies are mostly only of a year, but occasionally, as in the case of Christopher Barker, the Museum happens to be without some of the earliest or some of the latest productions of a particular printer, and in these instances Prof. Arber's fuller *List* is of great service. The wider range of facts on which the *List* is based will also enable something to be done towards the identification of the large number of printers who, in their title pages and colophons, substituted initials for their full names. Until a complete list had been compiled the competitors for the ownership of any given pair of initials remained an uncertain quantity. Now, however, the process of identification is materially helped. Thus the B. A. (1617-1640) of the Museum Index for the fifteen years 1617-1632, and after 1637, must be Bernard Alsop, because for these years there is no other publisher with these initials on Prof. Arber's *List*, while between 1632 and 1637 B. A. may stand also for Benjamin Allen. So the R. A. of 1626-27 must be Robert Allot, and the S. A. of 1565 Sampson Awdely. The C. A. (misprinted in the *List* as G. A.), for whom R. Johnes in 1576 printed Anthony Copley's *Fig for Fortune*, was probably no regular publisher, but the author himself. Of course where the first initial is that of one or more

common Christian names the task of identification still remains difficult. Thus the works assigned to the E. A. (1587-1635) of the Museum Index may one day be distributed among five different persons, Elizabeth Adams, Edward Aggas, Edward Alldce, Elizabeth Alldce and Elias Adams, and the same number of Thomases (Adams, Allchorn, Allot, Andrewes and Awcher) may lay claim to works printed by or for T. A. between 1614 and 1639. The promised street-directory in Professor Arber's last volume will probably give valuable help in further unravelling these difficulties; meanwhile this instalment deserves a warm welcome.

## Practical Librarianship.

MR. CECIL DAVIS, of the Wandsworth Public Library, has issued a tastefully-got-up pamphlet containing a list of views, maps, and plans of the locality preserved in the library—as well as of various relics and objects of interest illustrating the history of Wandsworth and the surrounding districts. Brief notes add greatly to the value and interest of the catalogue, which has figured on its cover the famous “Garratt Lane Leather Bottle.”

## Correspondence.

### THE LIBRARY BUREAU.

DEAR MR. EDITOR,—I am glad to find that you are renewing the pressure (p. 235) for printed title-slips of English books. Long ago I suggested that every book issued should have one leaf with six or seven copies of such form of title as would be useful for catalogues. These slips could then be used under six or seven different heads or classifications, and would soon secure a sort of automatic catalogue.

If one or two publishers would begin, every other would soon follow. The details could readily be arranged, and I hope you will persevere with your excellent proposal. Why not discuss the details in your pages and adopt the best “form”?

Faithfully yours,

SAM. TIMMINS.

June 5th, 1890.

## Library Association Record.

THE last monthly meeting was held at the Association's Rooms, on Monday, June 9th, Mr. Joseph Gilbert in the chair. Mr. S. A. Addinsell, of Liverpool, was elected a member, and it was announced that the Clapham Public Library had joined the Association. Mr. H. W. Fovarque, Solicitor, Town Clerk of Eastbourne, was proposed for election.

Mr. H. R. Plomer read a paper on “Robert Wyer, the Charing Cross Printer.” A most interesting discussion followed, and several hitherto unknown facts in connection with this printer were brought to light. Mr. Lawrence Inkster read a paper on “How Libraries were described 150 Years Ago.”

On the motion of Mr. Cecil Davis, a vote of congratulation was offered to Mr. Dennis Douthwaite, the Assistant Secretary, on his appointment to the King's Library.

The Secretaries announced that the date of the Annual Meeting at Reading had been fixed, viz.—17th, 18th, and 19th September.

Hearty votes of thanks to the authors brought to a close the last monthly meeting of the season.



## PUBLIC LIBRARIES: MONTHLY RETURN OF ISSUES, &amp;c.

MAY, 1890.

Name and No. of Libraries in operation.	REFERENCE LIBRARIES.				Sunday Daily Average Attendance.	LENDING LIBRARIES.					
	No. of Vols.	Issue for Month.	Days Open.	Daily Average.		Borrowers on Register.	No. of days Books lent.	No. of Vols.	Issue for Month.	Days Open.	Daily Average.
Alloa 1 .....	500	37	26	1	...	1,221	7 & 14	7,000	3,158	26	121
Barrow 1 .....	2,378	852	26	32	...	2,415	14	13,484	9,097	26	349
Battersea 2 ....	7,046	1,128	26	43	...	8,445	14	15,795	21,355	26	821
Bradford 9 ...	23,444	6,840	31	221	1,135	10,635	7, 10 & 14	45,548	35,416	24	1,476
Brighton 1 ...	12,750	2,083	26	80	...	5,370	14	19,862	11,091	26	427
Bristol 6 .....	15,412	17,107	29	590	...	18,654	7	58,769	36,340	25½	1,425
Cardiff 1 .....	13,375	1,162	25	46	...	6,335	14	17,515	10,136	25	405
Chelsea 2 .....	4,385	1,458	30	48	380	1,363	14	4,513	4,698	24	195
Chester 1 .....	...	...	...	...	...	1,771	10	8,331	3,592	26	138
Clapham 1 ...	624	258	21	12	...	3,753	14	4,550	7,055	21	336
Clerkenwell 1	1,314	...	...	...	...	3,010	15	8,811	6,550	26	252
Croydon 1 .....	850	327	27	12	...	3,797	14	5,700	10,091	23	438
Ealing 1 .....	850	33	21	1	...	2,724	7	6,929	10,138	21	482
Glasgow: Bailie's Inst. 1	9,000	5,589	26	215	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Hamm's'th 1	1,410	173	22	7	...	3,985	7	6,906	17,616	22	800
Hanley 1 .....	2,109	479	24	20	...	1,857	7 & 10	5,798	4,675	24	195
Leicester 3 ...	10,720	2,194	24	91	...	8,757	7	23,839	20,343	24	847
Norwich 1 .....	6,735	...	...	...	200	2,938	14	12,654	8,857	21	422¹
Paddington 1	3,282	241	30	8	75	...	...	...	...	...	...
Portsmouth 1	5,439	420	26	16	...	11,952	7 & 14	19,015	23,973	26	922
Preston 1 .....	...	...	...	...	...	15,420	14	16,414	7,340	25	293
Reading 1 .....	3,628	405	26	15	...	7,118	14	15,924	11,249	23	478
Richmond 1 ...	7,588	472	21	22	...	2,958	7	9,062	7,750	21	369
Rochdale 1 ...	12,385	5,477	30	182	525	6,000	14	29,859	10,830	25	433
St. Helens 2	3,696	285	26	10	276	2,000	7	12,175	9,830	26	378
Sheffield 5 ..	13,043	3,625	25	145	...	15,225	7 & 14	80,296	35,886	25	1,435
Wandsworth 1	3,838	197	22	9	...	3,312	7	7,888	6,253	22	297
Westminster 2	Lending	5,770	25	231	...	3,883	14	22,347	6,870	25	275
Yarmouth 2 ...	2,209	294	25	12	...	3,160	7, 14	8,812	9,876	25	395

¹ Juvenile department worked in schools. 3,667 vols.; 5,962 issues.

Fulham and Glasgow (Mitchell) Libraries closed.

Librarians who contribute to this table are reminded that their returns should be sent in by the 14th of each month to Mr. J. D. Brown, 19, Tysoe Street, Clerkenwell, W.C.

Editorial Communications and Books for Review should be addressed to the Editor, 20, Hanover Square, W.—Advertisements and Letters on Business to the Publishers, 62, Paternoster Row, E.C

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## On certain Modern Shakespeariana.<sup>1</sup>

THE most generally esteemed of all writers on Shakespearian historical matters is, I suppose, the late Mr. Halliwell Phillipps; and the one especial quality of his writing which it is dangerous to dispute is that of accuracy. In all matters of purely antiquarian research this reputation is, so far as I am acquainted with his multifarious publications, thoroughly well deserved. His reprints of documents are mostly correct, *verbatim et literatim*; and he never introduces forged expressions or statements of his own concoction, though he freely uses and endorses those of his intimate friend, Mr. Collier. But when he ventures beyond this safe ground and attempts the higher duties of the biographer or historian, he plainly shows an incapacity to grasp more than minute details and absolute inability to co-ordinate his materials. As an instance, I will take his account of Shakespeare's proceedings in 1597. In p. 239 of his *Life of Shakespeare* (second edition), he speaks of him as being in the service of Lord Cobham in the spring of that year:—"Lord Cobham, under whom the poet then served," are his exact words. I do not wish to be hypercritical and will not press the minor points that actors, not poets, "served" under the patrons of theatrical companies, and that Cobham never was the patron of any such company known to history. I am content with the plain statement that Shakespeare was attached to Cobham's service at that date. In p. 88 of the same work we are told that "Shakespeare's company," after certain Court performances "made a tour through Sussex and Kent, visiting Rye in August and acting at Dover on the 3rd of September." This paragraph gave me much trouble. The dates of the Court performances, "New Year's Day, Twelfth Night, Shrove Sunday and Shrove Tuesday," are particularized by Mr. Phillipps, but he quotes no authority for them, and they are unknown to any antecedent writer on the subject. As, however, the only companies who performed at Court at that time were

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<sup>1</sup> Read before the Library Association, Annual Meeting, London, 1889.

the Admirals' and Lord Hunsdon's, I had no doubt that Mr. Phillipps had unearthed some entry previously neglected concerning the latter company, of which Shakespeare was then a prominent member. But it was not till I came to p. 316 of this remarkable book that I found that the company which visited Rye, Dover, &c., was Pembroke's company, which never numbered Shakespeare among its actors at all, and which had, as I afterwards proved, been dislodged from the Curtain Theatre and gone a-travelling to make room for those very men of Lord Hunsdon's, Shakespeare's true company, with whom they are by Mr. Phillipps on this occasion confused. On p. 365, when Mr. Phillipps is arguing that *Romeo and Juliet* was acted by Hunsdon's men at the Curtain in 1597, he seems fully aware of this, because he wanted to support his interpretation of a line in Marston's *Satires*. At p. 88 it was more convenient to make Shakespeare a member of Pembroke's company, because this point was a necessary basis for his attribution to Shakespeare of the authorship of *Titus Andronicus* and *Richard Duke of York*—an absurd conclusion, which has been bolstered up by a transatlantic society.

This Cerberus personification of Shakespeare, as a member of Hunsdon's company in London, of Pembroke's on the Kentish coast, and of Cobham's at Kennaqhair, may here suffice as a sample of Mr. Phillipps' biographical work. I may add an illustration of his acquaintance with the contemporary dramatists. In 1860 he published a reprint of *The Doctors of Dullhead College*, being a droll formed out of the "lost play" of *The Father's own Son*; thirty copies only were printed, and these fetch high prices from collectors. The book, however, is worthless, the "lost play" being Fletcher's well-known *Monsieur Thomas*. How this first escaped the observation of careful and indefatigable Dyce, whose editions of the dramatists still remain the best we have (when untinkered by subsequent and incompetent hands), I cannot explain.

Next to Mr. Phillipps' *Life of Shakespeare*, the book most often referred to as an authority is Mr. Collier's *Annals of the Stage*. This unfortunate treatise has probably done more to confuse the minds of historical students than any other similar production. When I first pointed out the enormous number of erroneous statements in this work, I was received with a storm of abuse, which has not yet fully subsided. There are still distant rumblings audible in America.

In this country, however, the numerous forged documents included therein are now well recognized. And yet, even now, there is one large class of forgeries undealt with. Mr. Collier, among his numerous "discoveries" found MSS. of verse in considerable numbers—ballads, elegies, and the like, of which I will here mention one instance. In vol. i., p. 386, he gives us a spirited ballad on *The Wreckage of the Cockpit Theatre in Drury Lane*. This playhouse was occupied by the Lady Elizabeth's servants, and in the ballad a play (by Heywood), *The Fair Maid of the West*, is alluded to as one of the pieces performed there, which indeed it probably was. But other plays are also alluded to, Heywood's *Silver Age*, for instance, which belonged to Queen Anne's players of the *Red Bull*, and *Rollo*, written by Fletcher and others, which belonged to the King's men. Neither of these could possibly have been acted at the Cockpit. The ballad cannot be authentic. The question still remains: who wrote it? My lamented friend, Dr. Ingleby, who first directed my attention to this question, thought that Collier himself forged these spurious ballads, and adduced a volume of early poems published by him in evidence of his capacity to do so. I could not and cannot agree with him. That volume was poor stuff indeed, and many of the forgeries are cleverly versified, sometimes rising into genuine poesy, and in this very ballad I find evidence confirming me in my judgment. For the forger, along with his allusions to other plays by Heywood, introduces some to his *Iron Age*, in which Priam and Troilus are conspicuous characters; but Collier, in his note, entirely mistakes this and thinks that "this might be Shakespeare's play surreptitiously acted at the Cockpit," but admits that "possibly it was a different play on the same subject," evidently meaning Dekker and Chettle's *Troilus and Cressida*, which was acted at the Fortune. My inference is that Collier was not the forger, but the utterer, of these spurious documents. The name of Peter Cunningham might much more plausibly be appended to them. In any case, the multitudinous errors in this our only stage history of our early drama (I counted 2,000 and got tired of counting), prove that the most pressing necessity for students is the production of a trustworthy account of the histrionic details, without which any chronological study of this most important section of our literature is an impossibility.



This statement is conclusively confirmed by a study of Professor A. W. Ward's *History of Dramatic Literature*, a work which, if cleared of the inevitable errors induced by his being compelled to refer to Collier for his facts connected with the stage, would rank with the greater histories in the language. Its lucid style and the calm clear tone of its criticisms based on solid judgment and extensive reading, place this work in the foremost rank and I sincerely hope that it will not be re-edited until a trustworthy history of the stage shall have appeared, so that its otherwise almost faultless perfection may be cleared of this one defect.

Of subsidiary books I have small space to treat here. I had hoped to include the *Dictionary of National Biography* among the books worthy of commendation; but the lives of dramatic authors as yet included in it preclude such hope. They repeat the old errors and, where not founded on Dyce's excellent memoirs prefixed to his admirable editions, are misleading and incomplete.

One subsidiary book, which I can hardly pass over, because it has been forced into ephemeral notice by the extravagant praise of Mr. Phillipps, is *The Chronological order of Shakespeare's Plays*, by the Rev. H. P. Stokes. This gentleman's work will never suffer the condemnation of faint praise which it bestows on me; that of being "too ingenious"; it is rather too ingenuous in its wholesale adaptation of the baseless guesses of his master. He assumes, for instance, as known facts that Ecclestone and Gough were actors in *All's Well that Ends Well*; Cross in the *Comedy of Errors*; Rossil and Harvey in *Henry IV.*; simply because Mr. Phillipps had said so. It will be hardly believed that the sole foundation for these wild assertions is that the names Rossil and Harvey occur as prefixes in place of Bardolph and Peto, being evidently the names borne by those characters in the original version of the play, that S. Cro. is met with once as a misprint for S. Dro., *i.e.*, Dromio of Syracuse, and that Ecclestone and Gough have been manufactured out of the Captains E. and G. of the drama. Yet so it is; and this one instance at once shows what *ignes fatui* (I adapt Mr. Phillipps' own words applied by him to my theories in his *Life of Shakespeare*) "have enticed" this "deluded traveller out of the beaten path into strange quagmires;" and the too ingenuous manner in which he was followed by his simple-minded pupil. But he has surpassed his master, who was

content with making Captain G. either Gough or Gilburne (is there not an M in Macedon and Monmouth?); he has made him into both Gough and Gilburne. See p. 196 of this remarkable book, which contains more errors than it does pages. One curious thing in the language of Mr. Halliwell Phillipps, above quoted, is the elegance of its metaphor. When an expression similar to that applied by him to me was directed against himself by Dr. Furnivall, he was up in arms at once, and applied to Robert Browning (of all people in the world), as President of the New Shakspeare Society, to make him hold his tongue. But he did not.

I do not here take note of *Primers* or other compilations; and have in conclusion only to ask your forbearance to one so many-wise unfitted to occupy the position with which I have been honoured on this occasion; but as old Shirley's Humorous Courtier would have said:

“I was ordained to be the man to talk  
And have been craned up to this altitude.”

F. G. FLEAY.



## The Monastic Scriptorium.—II.

(Continued from page 244).

IT is not always that we can point out the scriptorium in the architectural construction of a monastery. We must not imagine a spacious apartment like the refectory or the dormitory, commodious enough for the whole body of resident monks. All the brethren were not engaged in copying, nor in registering passing events, much less in the original composition of literary or philosophical works; nor were the writing and illumination always done in a single room. It sometimes happened that the work of transcription and historical compilation was effected in separate cells or "carols," which, as we shall see, were arranged in the cloistral avenues, or incorporated with the conventual buildings.

The word *scriptorium*, indeed, was not invariably a strictly defined term, being used not only for a large or a small chamber devoted to writing, but also for cells or small rooms; and sometimes it was applied to larger apartments, which, having no other particular name or use, were, as Dr. Maitland remarks, called *scriptoria*, even when not actually used, or specially intended for the business of writing. Thus we are told that Arnold, Abbot of Villars, in Brabant, when he forsook office (c. 1250) occupied a scriptorium, where he lived as a private person in his own apartment. One of his successors, Jacobus, who became abbot in 1276, attached similar cells to the outside of the calafectory, and somewhat later two others were added to the sacristan's house. Among the Cistercians the scriptorium was sometimes a private cell for study or recreation, and among the statutes, A.D. 1278, it is required "that monks to whom scriptoria are allowed, *studendum vel recreandum*, are not to remain in these apartments at times when they are required to be in the cloister." Properly, however, and in the great abbeys, the scriptorium was a large chamber, duly consecrated, where as many as twelve or even twenty persons were employed in copying and illuminating the Sacred Scriptures, service books, and legends of saints, besides noting music and giving much attention to profane literature. The historiographer usually had his private study away from the other scribes. Artificial light from lamps or candles was not allowed in the scriptorium, lest oil, or grease, or other accident



should damage the MSS., and stringent rules were in force to prevent idleness or inattention. Special artists were generally employed to insert the rubrics and design the embellishments, and with what success they did their work a thousand exquisite examples which have escaped the hand of the spoiler testify. The general superintendence of the monks, while engaged in their literary task, was committed to the *armarius*, who seems to have been very much like a modern librarian, the library, as distinct from the scriptorium, being called the *armarium*. Estates were often devoted to the maintenance of the scriptorium; that at St. Edmundsbury was endowed with two mills, which were a considerable source of revenue; and in 1171 the tithes of a rectory were given to the cathedral convent of St. Swithin's, Winchester, *ad libros transcribendos*. In like manner Nigel, A.D. 1160, appropriated two churches to the monks of Ely, *ad libros faciendos*. One of the works produced at St. Edmundsbury, was Lydgate's *Boke of the Sege of Troy*, an original copy of which, written and illuminated by the hand of "Daun John Lydgate, monke of Bery, atte excitacioun and steryng of the moost worthi and myghty Prynce Kyng Henry the Fyfthe," was lately offered by Mr. Quaritch for £1,720. Another and apparently contemporary copy of this same work is in the City Free Library of Bristol. The scriptorium of St. Albans Abbey was built by Abbot Paulin, a Norman, who caused many books to be transcribed there about the year 1080, Archbishop Lanfranc supplying the works to be copied. It was afterwards rebuilt at the expense of Thomas, the thirtieth abbot (1349-96) with the oversight of Thomas de Walsingham, cantor and scriptorarius. The very usual conjunction in one person of the offices of leader of the choir and keeper of the MSS., grew naturally enough out of the fact that at first the only books which had to be taken care of were breviaries and other service books. The labours of the monks of St. Albans in the department of English history may be judged by the noble series of volumes from their hand, published in the Rolls' Series, the extant chronicles of their compilation affording the richest of all fields for the searcher into the mediæval past. Of the St. Albans historians, Matthew Paris might be called the English Herodotus, for though his labours were grounded on the chronicle of Roger Wendover, who had been a monk of the same abbey, he was the first to connect foreign transactions with the events of his own country. His honesty and simplicity, with his power of dramatic narration, were qualities of style that were perhaps

understood by Henry III., who ordered him to commemorate a great celebration of the feast of Edward the Confessor, appointing him a seat near the throne that he might adequately view the scene. Happily Matthew's mental strength did not give way under the strain of his studies, so as to require the severe measures that were applied in the case of one of his brethren, Alexander de Langley, whose much learning had driven him actually mad. Langley was keeper of the abbot's seal, and moreover so elegant a scholar that he could write a letter to the pope ; but in his raving he showed himself proud and conceited. The abbot ordered him to the cloister, where he persisted in his vaunting pretensions to superior intellect and scholarship. Much moved by this sad exhibition, his superior cited him to the chapter house, where he caused him to be flagellated till he was bloody (*usque ad copiosam sanguinis effusionem flagellari*), and being still unhumiliated, he sent him to his cell at Bynham. There the unfortunate maniac was retained in solitary confinement and fetters till he died, when he was even buried in his chains (*compedibus est sepultus*). In another instance the shortcomings of another monkish scribe were of happier termination. He had copied out the whole volume of the divine law, but he was so great a transgressor of the moral law, that after his death there was a sharp contention for his soul : the evil spirits adduced his manifold sins, which even equalled the number of the letters in the volumes he had written save one letter only ; but this single letter in excess was the means, on the pleading of the angels on his behalf, of saving his soul alive.

If we wish to see the former scriptoria of the monks, we must look for them in the cloisters of the abbeys and of the monastic cathedrals. At Clairvaux, there were eight small cells in the lesser cloister appointed for the scribes engaged in copying works for the library, which was, as usual, placed over the chapter-house. Odo, first abbot of St. Martin's at Tournay, used to exult in the number of writers which the Lord had given him ; "for if you had gone into the cloisters, you might, in general, have seen a dozen young monks sitting on chairs, in perfect silence, writing at well-constructed tables. All Jerome's Commentaries on the Prophets, all the works of St. Gregory, and everything he could find of St. Augustine, Ambrose, Isidore, Bede, and the Lord Anselm, then abbot of Bec, he caused to be diligently transcribed. Some of these MSS. were believed by Dr. Maitland to be in his time the property of his learned friend



Dr. Todd, of Trinity College, Dublin. One of them, since sold for £20, is entitled *Gregorialis*; and was compiled by, and is apparently in the handwriting of Alulfus, who during forty-seven years was the *armarius* or librarian, of the convent, under Odo. In the west walk of the cloisters of the Abbey of St. Werburgh, Chester, are the arched recesses, prepared as studies or carols for the monks, the latter name being obtained from their squareness of section (*carrels* or *quarrés*). These are continued in the south walk, the ruins of them being yet visible. Each is lighted by a transomed window of two bays, while against the church wall, opposite the cells, were *almeries* to contain the books. In the destroyed south walk of Chester Cathedral were also many carols, and some remain in a fairly perfect condition at the south end of the west walk. In the cloister of Worcester we find similar arrangements, which are explained in the *Durham Rites* (p. 70). There the north side of the cloister was thus arranged:—"Each window was of three lights and glazed, and in every window three *pewes* or *carrels*, where every one of the old monkes had his carrell severale by himselfe, that when they had dyned they did resorte to that place of cloister and there studyed upon their books, every one in his carrell, all the afternonne unto evensong tyme. All these carrells were finely wainscotted and verie close, all but the forepart, which had carved wourke that gave light in at ther carrell doures of wainscott. And in every carrell was a deske to lye there bookes on. And the carrelle was no greater than from one stanchell of the wyndowe to another. And over against the carrells against the church walle, did stande certain great almeries (or cupbords) of waynscott all full of bookes." But the most interesting example of the kind in England is in Gloucester Cathedral, formerly a Benedictine abbey. The fan-traceried vaulting of the cloisters there, belongs to the second half of the 14th century, and is the earliest and most beautiful in the kingdom. Running below the main windows in the south ambulatory, is a series of twenty carols, or arched cells with battlemented cresting, each lighted from the inside of the quadrangle by a small window of two divisions. In these silent retreats the busy copyists pursued their calm and unmolested work; and though wars and rebellions might be distracting the nation, they were no more disturbed by the noise of conflict than by the chirp of the sparrows in their cloister-garths. Silence, indeed, was an attribute of the scriptorium and



cloister, and we may well believe that the scrupulous accuracy with which every letter was shaped and connected could only have happened by the most uninterrupted attention to the process of writing. Charles Lamb says in his queer way that the "Abbey Church of Westminster hath nothing so solemn and spirit-soothing as the naked walls of a Quakers' meeting." As we find, by Elia's own confession, that the silence of a Friends' meeting was not absolutely unbroken—"some trembling female, generally ancient, now and then rising to lay out a few words which she thought might suit the condition of some present"—we may still keep to the traditional feeling that cathedral aisles and cloistral shades are the true abodes of the spirit of silence. "To enjoy one another's want of conversation" was the rule of the writing apartments and carols of the abbey. When a book was wanted by one of the brethren, he made a movement as of turning over the leaves of a volume. To this action he added the sign of the cross if the work needed were a missal; for the gospels he crossed his forehead; for a gradual he made the sign of the cross, and kissed his finger; with other prescribed motions for other books. When a pagan work was required, he was to use a general sign, and then to scratch his ear like a dog, because infidels may be likened to dogs. Sometimes, however, the copying was done by dictation, one of the transcribers reading aloud while the rest wrote accordingly. "Great pains," remarks Sir T. Duffus Hardy, "were taken in copying the classics, the Latin Fathers, and all books of scholastic learning, but comparatively little labour seems to have been bestowed on the execution of books relating to national or monastic history, unless they were intended for presents." It might require a citation of instances from Mr. Quaritch's glorious catalogues to give an idea of some of the literally golden legends of monkish transcription, and if we began to cite we should never cease.

It was in fitting continuity to the labours of the scriptoria that some of the earliest printing presses should have been set up within the monasteries. The Abbot of Westminster was one of the first patrons of Caxton, whose printing-press was established within the abbey precincts. The earliest Italian printing-press was in the monastery of St. Scholastica, at Subiaco, (1465), the productions of which are of singular beauty and much prized by the collector. Quaritch's catalogue, No. 371, "Monuments of the Early Printers, Italy," will

supply examples, and £250 will secure, if unsold, a fine copy of the *Editio Princeps* of Lactantius of this press, printed in *venerabili monasterio Sublacensi*." In 1480, a printing-press was set up at St. Albans, of which house William Wallingford was then prior. Also, in the next century (1525), a press was established at Tavistock, where a monk was the printer.

There is a serious charge against the monks as a body, that MSS. which had been prepared with such affectionate zeal in one age were often neglected or even left to destruction, if not wilfully destroyed, in a later age. We at once think of the oft-quoted instance of Boccaccio's visit to Monte Cassino, and his there entering the library and finding volume after volume of ancient and rare works with leaves torn out, margins clipped, and in short, the most precious books mutilated like those which came within the reach of the spoiler at the Dissolution, or were retained for the same fate in later days from the hands of the tasteless and ignorant and bigotted. Boccaccio was, however, a romancist, and we may reasonably ask for other evidence besides his own before accepting his statement in full. At any rate, the ruin of valuable documents was checked within limits. A catalogue of existing MSS. at Monte Cassino is now in preparation, if not complete; filling five volumes of descriptive and illustrative matter, 800 pages being devoted to forty-four MSS.

Longfellow, referring to his visit to this famous monastery, asks:—

What though Boccaccio, in his reckless way,  
Mocking the lazy brotherhood, deploras  
The illuminated MSS. that lay  
Torn and neglected on the dusty floors  
Boccaccio was a novelist, a child  
Of fancy and of fiction, at the best;  
This the urbane librarian said, and smiled  
Incredulous, as at some idle jest.  
Upon such themes as these with one young friar  
I sat conversing late into the night,  
Till, in its cavernous chimney, the wood fire  
Had burnt its heart out, like an anchorite.

Scriptural, patriotic, and classical writings were so numerously preserved or copied in the scriptorium of Monte Cassino, that in the 11th century the house had become celebrated for its literary spirit and possessions. Its monks were among the best illuminators of the time. After the vicissitudes of



many centuries, and notwithstanding the transference of much treasure of this kind to the Vatican, as reported by Mabillon, there are still 800 MSS., mostly of the 11th and 12th centuries. What the monastics did for the architecture of Europe, their noble fabrics of religion declare, which in each seen and unseen niche and corner are finished as honestly as every illuminated and un-illuminated letter in their MSS.; and what they did for learning and refinement the great books of the ancients, as noble in their way as cathedrals and castles, and which they copied and perpetuated, speak with the inspiration of the highest culture.

Our English Abbey of Ramsay had, perhaps, one of the largest libraries of mediæval days. A catalogue was made about the time (probably) of Richard II., and is preserved in the Cottonian Collection. Among the works enumerated under Latin titles are Aristotle's Natural History and Physics, Metaphysics and Ethics, works of Seneca, Ovid, Lucian, Terence, Plato, Sallust, Virgil, Prudentius, Macrobius, Martial, Solinus, Josephus, Orosius, St. Augustine, St. Anselm and Peter Lombard. There is mention of the purchase of the *Libri Sententiarum*. of Peter Lombard (*ob.* 1164) which was the mediæval armoury for ecclesiastical polemics, and consists of extracts from the Fathers on points of faith. A copy of the book is recorded in the accounts of the monks of Bolton to have cost that body xxxs., "the price was nearly that of two good oxen." "How expensive," says Whitaker, the historian of Craven, "must it then have been to furnish a library with MSS. But the canons of Bolton," he adds, "did not exhaust themselves in this way. I can only discover that they purchased three books in forty years." (*Hist. Craven*, p. 330.) It is possible, however, that they prepared their own books, for it seems questionable whether the service books, at least, would have lasted forty years without being worn out, like the Israelites' shoes in the Exodus. Not only so, but books were sometimes presented to the convent, or brought thither by the monks themselves. At his institution as Prior of Evesham, A.D. 1330, Thomas de Marleberg brought many works, including one of Democritus; Cicero de Amicitia, de Senectute et Paradoxis; Lucian, Juvenal, the Gradual of Constantine, Ysidorus de Officiis, and many other authors. After his priorship was ended he made a large breviary, the best then extant in the monastery, and bound up *Hamo on the Apocalypse*, and made likewise a large psalter.



Mr. Ernest C. Thomas, whose scholarly translation of Richard de Bury's *Treatise on the Love of Books*, does him so much honour, could tell of the benefactions of his hero to Durham College, Oxford, leaving at his death, in 1345, to that college, all his books, more, we are told in Dugdale (*Monas.*, iv. 678 and index), than were then possessed by all the bishops in England. These books were afterwards chained in the pews or studies of the college. At Reading Abbey, three classical MSS. occur in the list, the *Bucolics* and *Georgics* of Virgil, the works of Horace, and a Juvenal, all given by Ralph, priest of Whitchurch (*Dugd.*, iv. 38.).

Of the library of Glastonbury, Bishop Tanner has given a catalogue of fifty volumes, which were transcribed in one abbot's time in that great Benedictine Abbey, where the monks were constantly employed in copying for the library. Not a vestige of that library, it is believed, now remains. How richly it was stored may be conceived from what the learned authority, Leland, reports of it, who visited the place but a few years before it was dissolved. It was hardly to be equalled, he says, by any other library in Britain. He had scarcely passed the threshold, when the very sight of so many sacred remains of antiquity struck him with awe and astonishment, that for a moment he hesitated. He afterwards spent some days in examining it, by permission of Abbot Whiting (*Dugd.*, i. 9), whom in his (Leland's) MS. in the Bodleian, he calls "*Homo candissimus et amicus meus singularis.*" Through this, such was his subservience, it may be supposed, to the royal tyrant his master, he afterwards drew the pen. He has, in his *Scriptores*, given an account of some of the more curious MSS. he found there.

As were the precious jewels of literature, so were the caskets which worthily enshrined them. The costly ornamentation of some old MSS., show in what estimation they were held. "Illuminated or gilded," says Maitland (*Dark Ages*, p. 68), "with almost incredible industry, bound in or covered with plates of gold, silver, or carved ivory, adorned with gems, and even enriched with relics." An Elector of Bavaria is said to have offered a town for a single MS., but the monks, considering that he could retake the town whenever he pleased, declined to make the exchange (*Forsyth's Hist. of Ancient MSS.*, p. 47). The famous *Book of Kells* is an instance in point. It is now preserved in Trinity College Library, Dublin. Originally preserved at Kells, in the county of Meath, it was acquired by Archbishop Ussher, and

afterwards by Trinity College. Dr. Todd assigns the volume to the latter half of the 6th century, but others have argued it to be as late as the 9th century. In the *Annals of Ulster* it is called the Gospel of Columcille; but it is still a debated question whether it belonged to St. Columba, the first abbot of Iona, Dr. Todd being in favour of regarding the volume as his autograph, while Mr. Westwood cautiously withholds his assent to its being of so high antiquity. Prior to 1006 it was encased in a shrine of costly workmanship, adorned with gems and gold, and on account of this remarkable cover it was stolen by night (in 1006) from the sacristy of the Church of Kells. The gold and precious stones were stripped off as valuable plunder, but the book itself was buried by the thieves under a sod, where it was found some months after, having sustained little injury, less, indeed, Dr. Reeves declares, than it received "from the *plough* of a modern bookbinder."

Here we may remark in conclusion, that when free schools become an established institution, it will not be for the first time in history. In 1179 the 3rd Council of Lateran decreed that "since the Church of God is bound, as a pious mother, to provide that every opportunity for learning should be afforded to the poor, in every cathedral there should be a master to teach both clerks and poor scholars *gratis*," and Pope Innocent III. extended the injunction to other churches, requiring that in each should be provided the means of gratuitous education. Indeed, as early as the 8th century, Theodulf, Bishop of Orleans, in a capitulary address to his clergy, says:—"Let all priests open schools in the towns and country places, and if any among the faithful desire to confide to them their children to be instructed in learning, let them teach these little ones with perfect charity. . . And for teaching these children they shall seek no payment, and shall receive nothing but what the parents may offer to them voluntarily and through affection."

"Nothing will do," says Sydney Smith, ("Too much Latin and Greek") "in the pursuit of knowledge but the blackest ingratitude; the moment we have got up the ladder we must kick it down; as soon as we have got over the bridge we must let it rot; when we have got upon the shoulders of the ancients, we must look over their heads." We have very literally acted upon this gracious precept in regard to the literary and many other benefits, derived to modern enlightenment from the labours of the monks of old. Their solemn sanctuaries are now like

broken altars to an unknown God, and are desolated as though some ruthless invader had sacked the land, and would have pulled up a hated form of faith by the root ; while the monk himself has been stigmatized as lazy, sensual, selfish, superstitious, and misanthropic.

The sacred tapers' light is gone,  
Grey moss has clad the altar-stone,  
The holy image is o'erthrown,  
The bell has ceased to toll.

The long-ribbed aisles are burst and shrunk,  
The holy shrine to ruin sunk,  
Departed is the pious monk,  
God's blessing on his soul !

JOHN TAYLOR.





## Thomas Taylor the Platonist.—II.

(Continued from page 250.)

UNDER the encouragement of an anonymous patron Taylor undertook to translate all the Platonic dialogues that had not been turned into English by Mr. Sydenham. For this purpose he visited the Bodleian at Oxford in 1797, and was “handsomely treated” by the University. The Merediths engaged him to translate Aristotle’s *Metaphysics*.<sup>1</sup> Mr. Thomas Brand Hollis was another of his friends.

The elder Disraeli wrote a now forgotten novel, entitled *Vaurien*, which appeared anonymously in 1797. In this there is a satirical sketch of the Platonist. It is not easy to select passages from it sufficiently brief and unobjectionable. *Vaurien* waits in conversation with the wife of the Platonist until he has completed his morning worship:—“By this time the Platonist had concluded his long hymn to Apollo. *Vaurien* now ascended with difficulty. At the bottom of the stairs was a large kennel of dogs of various nations, who lived in a good understanding with each other, excepting when a bone was thrown among them, for then the dogs behaved like men, that is, they mangled and tore each other to pieces with sagacity and without remorse. Monkeys and apes were chained on the banisters. A little republic of cats was peaceably established on the first landing place. He passed through one room which was an aviary and another which was an apiary. From the ceiling of the study of the Platonist, depended a polished globe of silvered glass, which strongly reflected the beams of the sun. Amidst this aching splendour sat the Platonist, changing his seat with the motions of his god, so that in the course of the day he and the sun went regularly round the apartment. He was occupied in constructing a magic lanthorn, which puerile amusement excited the surprise of *Vaurien*.”

The Platonist accounted for it. “My dissertation on the Eleusinian mysteries is not all understood. The whole machinery, reflected on a white sheet, will be more intelligible than any I could give on a sheet of paper. In the presence of the gods, in the most holy of the mysteries, dæmons appeared

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<sup>1</sup> Mr. Peacock states that the translations of Aristotle were published at the expense of the Duke of Norfolk.

with the heads of dogs ; Pletho says this, who lived a thousand years after the mysteries. Then I have ‘omniform and terrific monsters ;’ then the demiurgus, the progress of purgation, inspection, crowning, torch-bearing, and, finally, friendship with the gods. But here is the great difficulty. How shall I represent ‘the intolerable effulgence of the divine light ?’ Much it grieves me, that for this sublime purpose a candle and a piece of coloured tin are all I can get into the lanthorn. The gods are not always favourable to my attempts. After long experiments, I conceived I had discovered the perpetual sepulchral lamp of the ancients. Last week I invited my friends to a philosophical lecture on my perpetual lamp ; I triumphed in my discovery ; but ere my lecture closed my lamp was suddenly extinguished. Good Gods !”—(Vol. II., p. 192.)

After more, which is best left untouched, we read :—

“Vaurien having felicitated the Platonist on the new world he had opened to himself, said, ‘You propose to overturn Christianity by the publications of the Platonists, and to erect a Pantheon, that the gods may be honourably revered.’

“‘That is my important pursuit ; I have already prepared the soaring and ecstatic Olympiodorus, the noble and obscure Heraclius ; I join the Asiatic luxuriancy of Proclus, divinely explained by Jamblichus, and profoundly delivered by Plotinus. Plotinus, who was surnamed ‘Intellect’ by his contemporaries, such was the fervour of his mind, that he was accustomed to write without attending to the orthography or the revision of his works, which perhaps occasions their divine unintelligibility ; for the celestial vigour rendered him incapable of trifling concerns, and he therefore committed them, as fast as he wrote, to Porphyry, who, perhaps labouring under the same divine influence, was equally incapable of orthography or sense.’ The Platonist concluded this conversation with an invective, of which the style appears to us so curious that we shall give the exact expressions, as a specimen of the Platonic effervescence in a Ciceronian period :—

“‘I have long perceived the ignorance and malevolence of Christian priests, from the most early fathers to the most modern retailers of hypocrisy and cant ; every intelligent reader must be alternately excited to grief and indignation, to pity and contempt, at the barbarous mythological systems of the moderns ; for in these we meet with nothing but folly and delusion, opinions founded either on fanaticism or atheism, in-

conceivably absurd, and inextricably obscure, ridiculously vain, and monstrously deformed, stupidly dull, and contemptibly zealous, apostolically delirious, or historically dry, and, in one word, such only as arrogance and ignorance could conceive, impiety propagate, and the vapid spirit of the moderns be induced to admit.'

" 'My dear Platonist,' exclaimed Vaurien, 'if you can roll periods like these, your genius will be rewarded by yourself being chosen by the nation to lay the first stone of a Pantheon in London, for "the ascent of excellent dæmons".' " (Vol. II., p. 213).

There is nothing to show that D'Israeli was personally acquainted with Taylor the Platonist, and the sketch in *Vaurien* is too obviously caricatured to be worthy of much attention.

Taylor, after leaving the bank, "had a place in one of the public offices, to the fatigues of which, finding his strength by no means adequate, and the employment appearing to him at the same time extremely servile, he relinquished it almost immediately after his nomination," and composed the following lines on the occasion :—

To ev'ry power that reigns on high,  
 Swifter than light my thanks shall fly,  
 That, from the B \* \* \* dark dungeon free,  
 I once more hail sweet liberty !  
 For sure, I ween, fate ne'er me doom'd  
 To be 'midst sordid cares entomb'd,  
 And vilely waste in groveling toil  
 The mid-day blaze and midnight oil,  
 To some poor darkling desk confin'd ;  
 While the wing'd energies of mind  
 Oppress'd, and crush'd, and vanquish'd lie,  
 And lose at length, the power to fly.  
 A doom like this be his alone  
 To whom truth's charms were never known ;  
 Who many sleepless nights has spent,  
 In schemes full fraught with *cent. per cent.*  
 The slave of avarice, child of care,  
 And lost to all that's good and fair.

Mr. Taylor finally, by the influence of his friends, was appointed assistant secretary of the Society of Arts.

Amongst Taylor's friends was Thomas Lovell Peacock, whose grand-daughter says :—" My grandfather's friends were especially Mr. Macgregor Laird and Mr. Coulson, also the two Smiths of the 'Rejected Addresses;' Barry Cornwall (Mr. Procter), and a remarkable man, Mr. Thomas Taylor, of Norwich, com-



monly called 'Pagan Taylor,' who always addressed grandpapa as 'Greeky Peeky'; he sacrificed lambs in his lodgings to the 'immortal gods,' and 'poured out libations to Jupiter,' until his landlord threatened to turn him out; hence his nickname of 'Pagan.'"

It is rather amusing here to see Thomas Taylor confounded with Taylor of Norwich, as on other occasions he has been confounded with Robert Taylor, the Devil's Chaplain, and even with Isaac Taylor! The origin of the story about the sacrifice, which has more than once been taken seriously, was probably no more than a good-natured jest.

Let us now endeavour to chronicle the various publications of this extraordinary man. They are all of them in a certain degree rare, and some of them are so in an exceptional degree:—

No date.

History of the Restoration of the Platonic Theology. London. 4to.

1780.

Elements of a new method of Reasoning in Geometry. London, 1780. 4to.

1786.

A short Essay on the Propagation and Dispersion of Animals and Vegetables. Being chiefly intended as an answer to a Letter lately published, and supposed to be written by a Gentleman of Exeter, in favor of Equivocal Generation. London, 1786. This is included in Mr. Sandford's list, but is not by Taylor but by Elford, and is a reply to William Jackson of Exeter.

1787.

The Mystical Initiations; or, Hymns of Orpheus. Translated from the original Greek; with a Preliminary Dissertation on the Life and Theology of Orpheus. By Thomas Taylor. London, printed for the author, 1787, 1 vol., 12mo.

1787.

Concerning the Beautiful, or, A Paraphrased Translation from the Greek of Plotinus, Ennead I. Book VI. By Thomas Taylor. London, printed for the author, 1787, 1 vol., 12mo.

1790 or 1791.

A Dissertation on the Eleusinian and Bacchic Mysteries. Amsterdam. Printed and sold by J. Weitstein. 8vo. This was no doubt printed in London. The Dissertation, with additions, appeared also in the *Pamphleteer*, Vol. VIII., 1816.

1792.

An Essay on the Beautiful. From the Greek of Plotinus, London, printed for the author, 1792, 1 vol., 12mo.

1792.

The Phædrus of Plato. A dialogue concerning Beauty and Love. Translated from the Greek. London, 1792, 1 vol., 4to.

1792.

Commentaries of Proclus, Philosophical and Mathematical, on the First Book of Euclid's Elements; to which are added, A History of the Restoration of the Platonic Theology by the Latter Platonists; and a translation from the Greek of Proclus's Theological Elements. Dedicated "To the Sacred Majesty of Truth." London, printed for the author, 1792, 2 vols., 4to.

1792

The Rights of Brutes. London, 1792, 1 vol., 12mo. Said to be a satire on Paine's Rights of Man.

1792.

The Hymns of Orpheus. Translated from original Greek, with a Preliminary Dissertation on the Life and Theology of Orpheus. London, Printed for the author, 1792, 1 vol., 8vo.

1793.

Two Orations of Emperor Julian. One to the Sovereign Sun, and the other to the Mother of the Gods; Translated from the Greek. With Notes, and a copious Introduction, in which some of the greatest arcana of the Grecian Theology are unfolded. London, 1793, 1 vol., 8vo.

1793.

The Cratylus, Phædo, Parmenides, and Timæus of Plato. Translated from the Greek by Thomas Taylor. With notes on the Cratylus, and an explanatory introduction to each dialogue. London, 1793, 1 vol., 8vo.

1793.

Sallust on the Gods and the World ; and the Pythagoric Sentences of Demophilus. Translated from the Greek ; and Five Hymns, by Proclus, in the original Greek, with a poetical version. To which are added Five Hymns by the translator. London, 1793, 1 vol., 8vo. The version of Demophilus is reprinted in the *Philobiblion*, New York, 1862, vol. 1, p. 152.

1794.

The Description of Greece. Translated from the Greek. With notes, in which much of the Mythology of the Greeks is unfolded from a theory which has been for many ages unknown, and illustrated with maps and views elegantly engraved. London, 1794, 3 vols., 8vo. For this Taylor received £60—the only one of his works for which he was paid by the booksellers or the public. A second edition appeared in 1824.

1794.

Five Books of Plotinus, viz. : On Felicity ; On the Nature and Origin of Evil ; On Providence ; On Nature, Contemplation, and The One ; and on the Descent of the Soul. Translated from the Greek, with an Introduction, containing Additional Information on these Important Subjects. By Thomas Taylor. London, 1794, 1 vol., 8vo.

1794.

Abridgement of the History of the West Indies. By Bryan Edwards, M.P. London, 1794, 3 vols., 8vo.

1795.

The Fable of Cupid and Psyche. Translated from the Latin of Apuleius : To which are added, a Poetical Paraphrase on the Speech of Diotima, at the Banquet of Plato ; Four Hymns, &c., &c., with an Introduction in which the meaning of the Fable is unfolded. London, printed for the author, 1795, 1 vol., 8vo.

1801.

Metaphysics of Aristotle, Translated from the Greek ; with Copious Notes, in which the Pythagoric and Platonic

Dogmas respecting Numbers and Ideas are Unfolded from Antient Sources. To which is added a Dissertation on Nullities and Diverging Series. London, printed for the author, 1801. 1 vol., 4to. The dissertation was not included in the second edition, which appeared in 1812 as Vol. IX. of the translation of Aristotle. See under date 1806.

1803.

An edition of Hederic's Greek Lexicon, 4to.

1804.

The Dissertations of Maximus Tyrius. Translated from the Greek by Thomas Taylor. London, Printed for the translator, Whittingham, 1804, 2 vols., 12mo.

1804.

An Answer to Dr. Gillies's Supplement to his New Analysis of Aristotle's Works ; in which the Unfaithfulness of his Translation of Aristotle's Ethics is Unfolded. By Thomas Taylor. London, printed by C. Whittingham, for the author, 1804, 1 vol., 8vo.

1804.

Translations from the Greek, viz. :—Aristotle's Synopsis of the Virtues and Vices. The Similitudes of Demophilus. The Golden Sentences of Democrates, and the Pythagoric Symbols, with the explanations of Jamblichus. By William Bridgman, F.L.S. To which are added, The Pythagoric Sentences of Demophilus. By Mr. Thomas Taylor. London, printed for W. Bridgman, 1804, 1 vol., 12mo.

1804.

The Works of Plato. Fifty-five Dialogues and Twelve Epistles. Translated by Taylor and Sydenham, with Annotations and Copious Notes, in which is given nearly all the existing Greek MSS., Commentaries on the Philosophy of Plato, and a considerable portion of such as are already published. London, printed for Thomas Taylor. 1804, 5 vols., 4to.

1805.

Miscellanies in Prose and Verse. Containing The Triumph of the Wise Man over Fortune, according to the Doctrine of the Stoics and Platonists ; The Creed of the Platonic Philosopher ; A Panegyric on Sydenham, &c., &c., by Thomas Taylor, London, printed for the author, by C. Whittingham, 1805, 1 vol., 8vo.



1806.

Collectanea ; or, Collections consisting of Miscellanies inserted by Thomas Taylor in the *European* and *Monthly Magazines*, with an Appendix containing some Hymns by the same author never before printed.\*\*\* London : printed for the author, by C. Whittingham, Dean Street, 1806, 1 vol., 12mo. In the preface it is mentioned that the volume was printed at the request of William Meredith. It contains a paraphrase of Ocellus Lucanus on the Nature of the Universe, which appeared in the *European Magazine* in 1782, and "is the earliest of the author's publications." On p. 18 is an Address to the British Nation ; on p. 19 On a Text in Hebrews (Heb. xi., 3). On p. 24 is a letter to the Editor of the *Monthly Magazine*, on p. 29 another ; on p. 31 To the Rising Sun ; on p. 34 Chaldean Oracles ; followed by (p. 38) A Concise Explanation of Chaldaic Dogmas, by Psellus ; on p. 45 begins the Oracles of Zoroaster ; on p. 63 Chaldean Oracles delivered by Theurgists under the reign of the Emperor Marcus Antonius ; on p. 80, Chaldean Oracles ; on p. 111 a Letter on Sensual and Intellectual Pleasures ; on p. 116 Theodosius and Constantia ; on p. 121 The Dream, an Imitation of the beginning of the Eleventh Book of Apuleius ; on p. 127 a Letter on the Fables of the Ancients ; on p. 135, a Letter on the Name of God ; on p. 137 on Alchemy ; p. 139 To the Sun. The Appendix begins on p. 147. There were but fifty copies of this printed, at the expense of Mr. Meredith.

1806.

The Works of Aristotle. Translated from the Greek. With copious elucidations from the best of his Greek Commentators, viz. : Alexander Aphrodisiensis, Syrianus, Ammonius Hermæas, Priscianus, Olympiodorus, Simplicius, &c. By Thomas Taylor. London, printed for the translator, 1806-12 ; 9 vols., 4to.

1809.

The Arguments of Emperor Julian against the Christians. Translated from the Greek Fragments preserved by Cyril, Bishop of Alexandria. To which are added Extracts from the other Works of Julian relative to the Christians. By Thomas Taylor. London, printed for the translator, 1809, 1 vol., 8vo.

1812.

Philosophy of Aristotle. A Dissertation on the four books. London, printed for the author, 1812, 1 vol., 4to.

1816.

Theoretic Arithmetic ; in Three Books, containing the substance of all that has been written on this subject by Theo of Smyrna, Nicomachus, Jamblichus, and Boetius. Together with some remarkable particulars respecting perfect, amicable, and other numbers, which are not to be found in the writings of any ancient or modern mathematicians. Likewise, a specimen of the manner in which the Pythagoreans philosophized about numbers, and a development of their mystical and theological arithmetic. By Thomas Taylor. London, printed for the author, 1816, 1 vol., 8vo.

1816.

The Six Books of Proclus, the Platonic Successor ; On the Theology of Plato, translated from the Greek ; to which a Seventh Book is added, in order to supply the deficiency of another book on this subject, which was written by Proclus, but since lost. Also a translation from the Greek of Proclus' Elements of Theology. To which are added a Translation of Extracts from his Treatise, entitled Ten Doubts Concerning Providence ; and a translation of Extracts from his Treatise on the Subsistence of Evil ; as preserved in the Bibliotheca Graeca of Fabricius. By Thomas Taylor. London, printed for the author, 1816, 2 vols., 4to.

1816.

*The Pamphleteer*, Vol. VIII., 8vo., contains the Dissertation on the Eleusinian and Bacchic Mysteries. See under date 1791.

1817.

Select Works of Plotinus, The Great Restorer of the Philosophy of Plato ; and Extracts from the Treatise of Synesius on Providence. Translated from the Greek. With an introduction containing the substance of Porphyry's Life of Plotinus. By Thomas Taylor. London, printed for and sold by the author, and by Black and Son, 1817, 1 vol., 8vo.

1818.

Jamblichus' Life of Pythagoras, or Pythagoric Life. Accompanied by Fragments of the Ethical Writings of



Certain Pythagorians in the Doric Dialect ; and a Collection of Pythagoric Sentences from Stobæus and others, which are omitted by Gale in his *Opuscula Mythologica*, and have not been noticed by any editor. Translated from the Greek. By Thomas Taylor. London, printed by A. J. Valpy, and sold by the author, 1818, 1 vol., 8vo.

1818.

The Rhetoric, Poetic, and Nicomachean Ethics of Aristotle. Translated from the Greek. By Thomas Taylor. London, 1818. 2 vols.

1820.

Miscellanies in Prose and Verse. Containing The Triumph of the Wise Man over Fortune, according to the Doctrine of the Stoics and Platonists ; The Creed of the Platonic Philosopher ; A Panegyric on Sydenham, &c., &c. By Thomas Taylor. Second edition, with additions. London, printed for the author, 1820, 1 vol., 16mo.

1820.

Commentaries of Proclus on the *Timæus* of Plato, in Five Books ; containing a Treasury of Pythagoric and Platonic Physiology. Translated from the Greek. By Thomas Taylor. London, printed for and sold by the author, 1810, 2 vols., 4to.

1821.

Jamblichus on the Mysteries of the Egyptians, Chaldeans, and Abyssinians. Translated from the Greek by Thomas Taylor. Chiswick, printed by C. Whittingham, for the translator, Manor Place, Walworth, 1821, 1 vol., 8vo.

1822.

The Metamorphosis, or Golden Ass, and Philosophical Works of Apuleius. Translated from the original Latin, by Thomas Taylor. London, 1822. 1 vol., 8vo.

1822.

Political Fragments of Archytus, Charondas, Zaleucus and other ancient Pythagoreans, preserved by Stobæus ; and also Ethical Fragments of Hierocles, the celebrated Commentator on the Golden Pythagoric Verses, preserved by the same author. Translated from the Greek by Thomas Taylor. Chiswick, Printed by C. Whittingham, for the translator, 1822, 1 vol., 8vo.

1823.

The Elements of a New Arithmetical Notation, and of a new Arithmetic of Infinites ; In Two Books ; in which the series discovered by modern mathematicians, for the quadrature of the circle and hyperbola, are demonstrated to be aggregately incommensurable quantities, and a criterion is given, by which the commensurability or incommensurability of infinite series may be accurately ascertained. With an Appendix, concerning some properties of perfect, amicable, and other numbers, no less remarkable than novel. By Thomas Taylor. London, 1823, 1 vol., 8vo.

1823.

Select Works of Porphyry. Containing his Four Books on Abstinence from Animal Food ; his Treatise on The Homeric Cave of the Nymphs and his Auxiliaries to the Perception of Intelligible Natures. Translated from the Greek by Thomas Taylor. With an Appendix explaining the Allegory of the Wanderings of Ulysses. By the translator. London, 1823, 1 vol., 8vo.

1824.

*See Pausanias, under date 1794.*

1824.

The Mystical Hymns of Orpheus. Translated from the Greek, and demonstrated to be the Invocations which were used in the Eleusinian Mysteries. By Thomas Taylor. The second edition, with considerable Emendations, Alterations, and Additions. Chiswick Press, 1824, 1 vol., 8vo.

1825.

Lost Writings of Proclus. The Fragments that remain of Proclus, surnamed the Platonic Successor. Translated from the Greek. By Thomas Taylor. London, printed for the author, 1825. 1 vol., 8vo.

1830.

Arguments of Celsus, Porphyry and the Emperor Julian against the Christians, and also extracts from Diodorus Siculus, Josephus, and Tacitus, relating to the Jews. Together with an Appendix containing the Oration of Libanius in Defense of the Temples of the Heathens. Translated by Dr. Lardner ; and extracts from Bingham's *Antiquities of the Christian Church*, London, Thomas Rodd, 1830. 1 vol., 16mo.

1831.

Ocellus Lucanus, on the Nature of the Universe. Taurus, the Platonic Philosopher, on the Eternity of the World. Julius Firmicus Maternus of the Thema Mundi ; in which the Positions of the Stars at the commencement of the several Mundane Periods is given. Select Theorems on the Perpetuity of Time, by Proclus. Translated from the originals, by Thomas Taylor. London, printed for the translator, 1831, 1 vol., 8vo.

1833.

Two Treatises of Proclus, the Platonic Successor ; the Former consisting of Ten Doubts concerning Providence, and a Solution of those Doubts ; and the latter containing a Development of the Nature of Evil. Translated from the edition

of these works by Victor Cousin, by Thomas Taylor. London, printed for the translator, and sold by William Pickering. 1833, 1 vol., 8vo. Re-issued in 1841.

1834.

Translations from the Greek of the following Treatises of Plotinus, viz.:—On Suicide ; to which is added An Extract from the Harleian MSS. of the Scholia of Olympiodorus on the Phædo of Plato respecting Suicide, accompanied by the Greek Text ; Two books on Truly Existing Being ; and Extracts from his Treatise on the Manner in which the Multitude of Ideas Subsists, and concerning The Good ; with additional notes from Porphyry and Proclus. By Thomas Taylor. London, printed for the translator, 9, Manor Place, Walworth, 1834, 1 vol., 8vo.

Thomas Taylor died at his residence at Walworth, 1 November, 1835. The cause of death was a disease of the bladder, borne with stoical resignation. Some days before his death he asked if a comet had appeared, and being answered in the affirmative, said, "Then I shall die ; I was born with it and shall die with it."

He was buried in Walworth churchyard, but no stone marks the spot, and the resting place of the Platonist is unknown. (*Notes and Queries*, 7th S. IX., 194). He was an enthusiast, and only an enthusiast could have done his work. His translations represent a side of Greek thought that but for him would be unrepresented in English literature. The sneers at his command of Greek are evidently absurd, for surely no man's mind was ever more thoroughly suffused with the very essence of Neo-Platonism. Whatever failure he may have made in unessential details would be more than compensated by the fidelity with which his sympathetic mind reproduced the spirit of the Pythagorean philosophers with whom he dwelt—apart from the noise and turmoil of the age in which he had been cast. His books remain a mighty monument of disinterested devotion to philosophic study. They were produced without regard to, and hopeless of, profit. They are not addressed to popular instincts, and there is no attempt made to give them clearness of style or to present their thoughts in an attractive fashion. The gold that was in them the Platonist thought deserved the trouble of toil-some digging.

The life of Thomas Taylor, the Platonist, is one which will

receive a tribute of admiration from the thoughtful. However much of an anachronism a Pagan philosopher may seem in the London of the nineteenth century of Christianity, it must be acknowledged that a man who devotes himself to poverty and study in an age and country famous for the pursuit of wealth ; who has the courage to adopt and the sincerity to avow opinions that are contrary to every prejudice of the time ; who runs the risk of persecution and imprisonment ; a man who “scorns delights and lives laborious days,” is entitled to our admiration and respect. And such was Thomas Taylor, the Platonist, whose name should be remembered by all friends of learning and freedom of thought.

WILLIAM E. A. AXON.





## Bibliography of the Livery Companies of London.

THE literature of the Livery Companies of the City of London will, without doubt, at no very distant date, provide a serious task for some future bibliographer. The spirit of enquiry, both from without and from within, which is now so active, must lead to the publication of increasing stores of information as to the present progress and past history of these ancient guilds. At present, however, the works upon this subject form a very modest list, and it may be that some justification is necessary for bringing the matter before you in the present paper. I can only plead on behalf of my subject, the general desire which exists for information relating to the Livery Companies. These ancient and historic guilds of which London is so justly proud, are well known throughout the country for their benevolence, their liberal encouragement of technical education, and their generous hospitality. It is natural, therefore, that a widespread desire should be displayed for information concerning them.

But it is to the students of history, archæology, and genealogy, that the past record of the old London guilds most strongly appeals. Among their members kings, princes, and the best of England's nobility have considered it an honour to be enrolled; and London's most famous merchants, themselves the founders of many a noble lineage, have, without exception, down to very recent times, been members of these Companies and have actively discharged the duties of the various offices of assistant, warden, and master. The livery guilds also form an integral portion of the municipality of London, and their history is thus closely associated with that of the Corporation. It may be safely asserted that no period of the history of England, from the middle ages to the end of the seventeenth century, can be adequately investigated without a careful study of the history of the London livery companies. In view then of the constant enquiries for information concerning them which come under my notice, I propose briefly to indicate the following chief sources of information :—

I. GENERAL HISTORY OF THE SUBJECT.—*English Guilds*, edited by J. Toulmin Smith, for the Early English Text Society in 1870; and *Gilds: their origin, constitution, objects and later history*,

1888, by Cornelius Walford, are both valuable. An interesting paper on the "Ordinances of some Secular Guilds of London from 1354 to 1496," was read by Henry C. Coote, before the London and Middlesex Archæological Society, in 1871. Early notices of the Companies are contained in the *Liber Albus*, written by John Carpenter in 1419, and published in the Master of the Rolls' series of Chronicles; and in a series of extracts from the Corporation records, edited in 1868, by H. T. Riley, as *Memorials of London and London life in the 13th, 14th and 15th centuries*. Much information is also to be found in the publications of the Public Records Commissioners, especially in the *Calendars of State Papers*, and in the two series of *Proceedings of the Privy Council*, the first edited by Sir Nicholas H. Nicolas, in seven volumes, in 1834-7; and the second, of the reign of Edward VI., now appearing under the editorship of Mr. J. R. Dasent. *Historical Reminiscences of the City of London and its Livery Companies*, by the Rev. T. Arundell (1869), has no index, and is a compilation of little value. John Stow's *Survey of London* (Strype's edition, 1754) is indispensable as an authority, especially on the locality of the Companies' halls. The annual *City of London Directory* contains a concise account of each Company, its charities, &c., with lists of the liverymen and governing bodies. Two Parliamentary Commissions have published reports:—*Second Report of the Commissioners appointed to enquire into the Municipal Corporations* (London Companies), 1837; and *City of London Livery Companies' Commission*, report and appendix, 5 vols., 1884. The latter is full of valuable information, contributed for the most part by the Companies, but the historical side of the enquiry has unfortunately been almost entirely neglected. There remain the controversial works, *Municipal London* (chapter iii.), by J. F. B. Firth, 1876; and *The City, an Enquiry*, by W. Gilbert, 1877. Both of these are distinguished more by the bitterness of their attack than by the accuracy of their information. Some few pamphlets exist, including a report of the debate on 'Mr. W. H. James' motion on the City Companies, brought before the House of Commons May 23rd, 1876. The annual *Reports of the City and Guilds of London Institute* show the progress of the colleges and classes established by that body for promoting technical education. The arms of the Companies are figured in *London's Armory*, by Richard Wallis, 1677; and on a smaller scale, in the *City of London Directory*. Their charities are fully described in the Reports of the Charity Commissioners,



and summarized in *The Charities' Register and Digest*, published by the Charity Organisation Society. Information about their Irish estates is given in (Sir) Charles Reed's *Historical Narrative of the Irish Society*, 1865, in Rev. G. Hill's *Historical Account of the Plantation of Ulster*, 1877, and in the proceedings in the case of the Skinners' Company against the Irish Society, 1835-45. A Parliamentary Committee is now sitting upon this question. Lists of members will be found (sometimes with places of abode) in the Poll-books for elections of Members of Parliament for the City, a collection of which from 1700 exists in the Guildhall Library. The subsidy rolls at the Record Office give valuable lists for early times. The pageants prepared by the guilds in honour of their members who become lord mayors, have been well described both by Nichols (in the *Gentleman's Magazine*, 1824-5) and Fairholt (Percy Society's publications, vols. 10 and 19, 1843-5). The chief specimens of ancient plate, belonging to the companies are noticed in *A Catalogue of the Antiquities and Works of Art exhibited at Ironmongers' Hall*, in May, 1861, and *College and Corporation plate*, by Wilfred J. Cripps, 1881. Of the seventy-seven Companies now existing, twelve have, from the earliest times, been distinguished from the rest by their wealth, importance, and greater municipal privileges. These are known as:—

2. THE TWELVE GREAT COMPANIES.—It is a matter for surprise and regret that only six of these guilds have as yet prepared any permanent record of their past history. William Herbert's *History of the Twelve Great Companies of London*, published in two volumes in 1836-7, is a work of much labour and research, although the accounts of the different Companies vary greatly in fulness. The introductory essay deals ably with many antiquarian features of their history, and copies and translations of their charters are appended. The Grocers printed a short account of themselves so long ago as 1689, written by William Ravenhill, their clerk. In 1829, appeared the first edition of Baron Heath's sumptuous history of the company, followed by a second edition in 1854. The author has well illustrated the antiquarian side of his subject from the company's records, but the biographical notices of eminent members are meagre and the work has a very poor index. In 1883, this company rendered a great service to the historical student by printing *Facsimiles, with translations, of the early ordinances, minute books and accounts, from 1345-1423*, an example which it is much to be



hoped other guilds will follow. Of the Ironmongers, an excellent account appeared in 1851, from the pen of Mr. John Nicholl, and a second edition, with appendix, in 1866. This work is a model of what such a history should be. It has been supplemented by a later account by T. C. Noble (1889), who was engaged, at the time of his death, in the preparation of a more extensive history. The Merchant Taylors have had the good fortune to find in Mr. Charles M. Clode, one of their past-masters, an able historian, who compiled his *Memorials of the Guild of Merchant Taylors* in 1875. This was followed, in 1888, by the *Early History*, in two volumes, the second of which is exclusively devoted to lives of the many eminent members of the craft. An exhaustive index to the three volumes gives a double value to this excellent work. The Company also issued in 1889, some *fac-similes* of their ancient deeds, dating from 1331 to 1531. It should be mentioned that a very early account was written by William Winstanley, in 1668, entitled *The Honour of Merchant Taylors*, and in 1831 appeared a work entitled *The Free Enquirer into the rights and privileges of the Fraternity*. Their ancient rivals, but present friends, the Skinners have also found a past-master, Mr. J. F. Wadmore, to act as their chronicler. A short account of the Company from his pen appeared in 1876. The Salters have hitherto been content with a meagre account written by Thomas Gillespy, one of their members, in 1827. The history of the Vintners is represented by four papers read at a meeting of the London and Middlesex Archæological Society in 1870, and reprinted by the Company in 1888. The description of the muniments given by Mr. J. Gough Nichols, gives rise to the hope that the Company may one day be induced to have reproductions made of some of the earliest of these treasures. The remaining six "Great" Companies are the Mercers, Goldsmiths, Drapers, Fishmongers, Haberdashers, and Clothworkers. An account of the Mercers is in preparation by Mr. John Watney, the able clerk of the Company, who will doubtless be allowed a free hand in dealing with their early records, which are of matchless interest. A paper by Mr. E. W. Braybrook, on the eminent members of the Company has lately appeared. The Fishmongers reprinted in 1844 their pageant, entitled "*Chrysanaleia, the golden fishing*," written by Anthony Munday in 1616, on the inauguration of Mr. John Leman as lord mayor. A second edition of this beautifully illustrated folio work was issued in 1859. The

Goldsmiths were first brought to light since Herbert's time in a short but interesting paper read by Major George Lambert before the London and Middlesex Archæological Society in 1883. Of the other four important Guilds absolutely no account has yet appeared.

3. THE MINOR COMPANIES.—It must be premised that in the case of many of the Companies, there is a literature more or less extensive connected with the trade represented by the Company; to describe this is however beyond my present purpose. Of the sixty-five minor Companies, only twenty-three are the subject of any printed account. The Armourers and Brasiers, issued in 1878, an account of their guild, printed in sumptuous form, and prepared by their beadle, Timothy Morley. The book is without an index. Of the Barber-surgeons there exists a history by T. J. Pettigrew, 1853; a paper by Major George Lambert, 1882; a *Description of the Pictures* by Mr. C. J. Shoppee, 1883; *Memorials of the Craft of Surgery*, by John F. South; and a history of the Company, by Mr. Sidney Young, now in the press.<sup>1</sup> An account of the Blacksmiths, by T. C. Noble, is appended to his *History of the Ironmongers*. The Brewers' Company's records extend from the beginning of the 15th century, and a transcript of their earliest volume, edited by the writer of the present article, is now in preparation. A *Sketch of the Early History of the Butchers*, by Joseph Daw, was written in 1869. An excellent history of the Carpenters was compiled in 1848 by the clerk, E. Basil Jupp; of this a new edition was published in 1889. The Clockmakers alone among the City Companies have formed a library and museum illustrating their trade. These valuable collections are now deposited in the Guildhall Library, and a catalogue of the contents was issued in 1875. An account of the Company, by S. E. Atkins and W. H. Overall appeared in 1881. A short account of the Coopers, entitled *Historical memoranda, charters, documents, &c.*, 1396-1848 was compiled by James F. Firth in 1848. Of the Curriers, a short history was prepared by E. S. Norris in 1874. A *Short History of the Worshipful Company of Cutlers*, by R. J. Cheesewright, 1882, leaves much to be desired. It contains an introduction borrowed from Herbert, followed by extracts from Stow and other writers, and a list of the Company's possessions and charities. The texts of the charter and ordinances are, however, printed in full, but the book has no index.

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<sup>1</sup> Published in June, 1890.



A paper by E. C. Robins, entitled "Some account of the history and antiquities of the Company of Dyers," was read before the London and Middlesex Archæological Society in 1880. The *Annals of the Company of Founders*, by W. M. Williams, 1867, gives a faithful account of the Company, and is well illustrated. *A Short Account of the Framework Knitters*, was written in 1879 by H. C. Overall. A similar *History of the Company of Horners*, by C. H. Compton, appeared in 1882. One of the best of the Companies' histories is that of the Leathersellers, by W. H. Black. This learned and sumptuous work was written in 1871. The ordinances and other records of the Loriners will be found in an appendix to *The Loriner*, by B. Latchford, 1871. The rules and orders of the Musicians were printed in 1790, 1799, and 1825, and an account of *The Worshipful Company of Needle-makers* was issued in 1876. The Painter Stainers printed *A Catalogue of the Pictures in Painters' Hall* in 1832. Of the Paviers a brief account by the writer of this article appeared in 1889. The minute book of the Pinmakers, from 1710 to 1723, is preserved among the MSS. of the Guildhall Library, and a book of accounts of the Pinners and Wire-makers, *temp.* Edward IV., is in the British Museum (Egerton MS. 1142). Of the Plumbers a history is in preparation by Mr. J. E. Price, at the instance of Past-Master Mr. George Shaw, whose treatise, *Revived guild action*, 1878 and 1890, is also dedicated to that Company. The charter of the Poulters, with other kindred documents, was printed by that Company in 1872. An admirable account of the Saddlers, by their clerk, Mr. J. W. Sherwell, well illustrated and indexed, was issued in 1889. Short accounts of the Shipwrights were written in 1876 by Col. T. D. Sewell and Dr. R. R. Sharpe. Of the Stationers many accounts have appeared; that by John Nichols, in his *Literary Anecdotes*, vol. 3, contains valuable notices of the more celebrated members. Extracts from the Company's registers were printed by J. Payne Collier in 1848-9, and Prof. Edward Arber's grand transcript of the whole of the registers for the years 1554-1640, in four volumes, was published in 1875-7. There are also *Historical Notices of the Company* by J. Gough Nichols, 1861; *A brief History* by the present writer, 1880; and a paper on the *Records* by the clerk, Mr. C. R. Rivington, 1881. The Tylers and Bricklayers have printed their *Book of Ordinances*, 1570-1586. *The History of the Origin and Progress of the Watermen*, by their clerk, Mr. Henry Humphreus, volumes 1-3, appeared in 1874-86. *A short account of the*



*Wheelwrights' Company* was printed by Mr. James B. Scott, Clerk of the Company, in 1884.

Most of these works are privately printed and are difficult to procure, they may, however, all be consulted at the Guildhall Library. In addition to the above, collections have been made for the histories of the following Companies: by Mr. D. J. Hile, for the Cordwainers; for the Pewterers by the late Sir John Staples; for the Turners by Mr. Brackston Baker; and by the late Sir T. J. Nelson, for the Weavers. Among the many minor guilds, whose history remains still unwritten, there are some of great antiquity but possessed of little wealth, whose records would certainly repay investigation. Of these may be mentioned the Scriveners, Musicians, Innholders, Parish Clerks, Bakers, Bowyers, and Cooks.

This very brief and imperfect sketch has been prepared as some sort of guide to the historical and general inquirer. Should my remarks, however, be fortunate in coming under the notice of the guardians of these ancient corporate bodies, they may help to assure them of the wide-spread interest that is felt in their history and associations. And if (as I trust is the case) I have the sympathy of the Library Association in the views which I have put forward, it will afford me satisfaction to have contributed, in however small a measure, to make more widely known the valuable records of the London civic guilds, and to render them more available for the purposes of historical enquiry.

NOTE.—An enquiry into the manuscript sources of information must be reserved for a future occasion.

CHARLES WELCH.



## THE LIBRARY CHRONICLE.

### The Museums Association Meeting at Liverpool.

On Thursday, the 19th June, the inaugural meetings of the Museums Association came to an end. The new association seeks to do for museums what the Library Association has done, and is doing, for libraries, and is avowedly modelled on lines similar to those of the latter organisation. Mr. S. G. North, of the York Philosophical Society, was the first to propose the calling together of the curators of first-class museums, with a view to discussing the desirability of a permanent organisation. After one or two meetings, a committee was formed under the secretaryship of Mr. H. M. Platvauer, B.Sc., curator of the York Museum; and the crown of that committee's work is seen in the newly-formed association. The meetings were opened in the Liverpool Free Public Museum, on the 17th June, by an address from the president, the Rev. H. H. Higgins, who has been for many years an earnest worker in the museum cause, and an enthusiastic helper in the development of the excellent Liverpool Museum. The principal points in the address were an eulogy on the life-work of the father of museums, Conrad Gesner, and a discussion of the place of the museum in the development of the "New Knowledge." The address also dealt to some extent with museum appliances. It was listened to throughout with intense interest, and the right note was struck in the conclusion when the president said, "the highest aim of work in public museums is not to multiply facts in the memories of visitors, but to kindle in their hearts the wonder and the loving sympathy—the new knowledge—called forth by every page in the annals of nature." After the address the visitors were entertained to a *soirée* in the museum rooms by the Library, Museum and Arts Committee, and the treasures of the Museum were examined by the guests with much apparent delight. On Wednesday morning, the 18th, Professor W. Boyd Dawkins, F.R.S., read a paper on "Museum Organisation and Arrangement," which summarised the best modern views on this subject, and sketched the outlines of the work to which the Museums' Association would have to address itself. Professor Dawkins preferred for himself an arrangement of objects based on their relations in point of time. Mr. F. W. Rudler, F.G.S., read a paper: "Suggestions for Aid in the determination of Natural History Specimens in Museums," which was a plea for co-operative work among specialists forming a body of referees to be appointed by the Association. The suggestion evidently met with some favour. A paper by Dr. Sorby, F.R.S., was read in his absence. It was illustrated by prepared specimens, and entitled, "A New Method of Mounting Invertebrates for Museum and Lecture Purposes." Mr. T. J. Moore contributed interesting "Notes on the Liverpool Free Public Museum," and Mr. John Chard read a paper on "Circulating School Cabinets for Elementary Schools," descriptive of a system originated by the president, by which 70 elementary schools are furnished with excellent specimens of natural objects periodically circulated from school to school. The rest of the session was occupied with the scheme for the constitution and management of the Society. The visitors from a distance, and museum representatives, lunched with the Mayor of Liverpool, and afterwards visited Chester, and were received by Dr. Stolterforth and Mr. Shrubsole. On Thursday morning, the scheme for the constitution of the Museums Association was finally disposed of, and the following



papers read : "The Best Means of making Museums Attractive to the Public," by Mr. R. Cameron, J.P. (Sunderland) ; "Notes on the Moscow Museum," by Mr. W. Gardner (Liverpool) ; "A Plea for Local Geological Models," by Mr. T. J. Moore ; "Museum Cases and Museum Visitors," by Mr. E. Howarth (Sheffield). A paper by Mr. R. Paden, on "Winter Evening Lectures in Museums," had, for want of time, to be left for another occasion. A long and useful discussion followed on the first of the papers named, in which several members of the Library Association took part. The election of officers for the first year was delegated to the committee, owing to want of time. After luncheon in the library rooms, an excursion on the river was taken, and the training ship, H.M.S. "Conway," and the school-ship, "Indefatigable," visited. Captain Miller, R.N., of the "Conway," provided tea for his guests, and the brass band of the "Indefatigable" received the visitors with musical honours. In the evening, the Japanese Consul and Mrs. J. L. Bowes gave a reception to the members and associates at Streatlam Towers, on the occasion of the opening of his magnificent and unique "Japanese Museum." On Friday, visits were paid to the Free Library and Museum, Bootle, where the chairman, Mr. Councillor J. Vicars, entertained his guests to tea. This visit brought to a close the inauguration functions of our sister organisation, "The Museums' Association." The following museums were represented : Bootle, Stockport, Blackburn, Bolton, Cardiff, Northampton, York, Bradford, Manchester (Owens College and Queen's Park), Warrington, Nottingham, Sheffield, Museum of Geology (London), Salford, Newcastle-on-Tyne, Leicester and Liverpool.

## Library Notes and News.

*The Editor earnestly requests that librarians and others will send to him early and accurate information as to all local Library doings. The briefest record of facts and dates is all that is required.*

*In course of time "Library Notes and News" will become of the utmost value to the historian of the Free Library movement, and it is therefore of the highest importance that every paragraph should be vouched for by local knowledge.*

*Contributors should send a memorandum of their contributions to the Editor at the end of each quarter, and a remittance will be promptly forwarded.*

BARNSELY.—On July 7th the Marquis of Ripon opened a free public library for the Borough of Barnsley in the presence of a large gathering of the townspeople. As we have previously mentioned, the library has been established through the munificence of Mr. C. Harvey, of Park House, near Barnsley, who a short time ago presented the Public Hall buildings to the Corporation on condition that the inhabitants adopted the Public Libraries Act. The gift was accepted, and the Act was unanimously adopted. The library building is one of the finest erections in the town. The Mayor (Alderman Wood) presided at the ceremony.

BIRMINGHAM.—Sir Henry Parkes, Premier of New South Wales, an old Birmingham man, has sent a large parcel of books to the Free Library.

BOWDON, CHESHIRE.—A public meeting was held on July 10th to consider the question of the adoption of the Public Libraries Act for the township, and whether Bowdon should amalgamate with the township of Altrincham in the application of the Act. Archdeacon Gore presided. After much discussion a negative vote was given, but a poll was demanded.

BRADFORD.—Arrangements have been made between the Public



Library Committee and the Bradford branch of the Teachers' Guild, whereby the books of the latter society are to be housed at the Public Library. The terms of the arrangement are that the books are to be accessible to the general public for reference only, but may be taken home for perusal by members of the Guild. A special catalogue has been issued.

BRECHIN.—The donor of the £5,000 for the proposed Brechin Public Library has intimated through his agent that he is willing to hand over £3,000 should the Town Council, as suggested by them, undertake to provide 6,000 volumes for the library. The Council have asked the opinion of Sir Charles Pearson as to whether they have power to provide the books, but his decision is not yet disclosed. The other £2,000 is, by the conditions laid down, to be invested.

CARDIFF.—Messrs. Seward and Thomas, architects, Cardiff, have been instructed to prepare plans for the enlargement of the present buildings and the erection of a new wing for the purposes of library, reading-room, museum, &c. The entire cost of the building and alterations is not to exceed £10,000.

CROYDON.—Mr. R. C. Chapman, till lately an assistant in the Newcastle-upon-Tyne Public Library, has been appointed Librarian of the Croydon Free Public Libraries.

DUBLIN.—The National Library of Ireland, Kildare Street, Dublin, was closed on July 7th, in order that the books might be transferred to the new building. It is hoped that the transfer will be completed by the 29th August. According to *The Irish Times* the library in Leinster House, received the name of the National Library of Ireland in August, 1877, when it was placed under the Science and Art Department at South Kensington. Before that time it was the Library of the Royal Dublin Society. The books were mainly purchased by the aid of a small Parliamentary grant voted to the society for various purposes. The Royal Dublin Society handed over their library, along with other collections, to the Science and Art Department, for a money consideration, as well as increased accommodation in Leinster House. A number of the volumes, mainly scientific serials, will return to the Royal Dublin Society under an agreement entered into at the time of the transfer, and this arrangement will materially curtail the number of books to be removed to the new building. Since 1877 the National Library has spent a grant of £1,000 a year in the purchase of books. The staff, including attendants, whose salaries are provided by Parliament, number only seven at present, but it is expected that in the new building the number of attendants will be increased.

DUNFERMLINE.—Mr. Andrew Carnegie and Mrs. Carnegie visited the Carnegie Free Library, Dunfermline, in June, and handed the librarian £200 for the purchase of books, so that, as they said, "the stock might be freshened."

EDINBURGH. — The lending department of the Edinburgh Public Library was opened on July 1st. There was a fair demand in the forenoon for books of history, and biography, and travels held their own against the others for some time. Fiction came next, but, as will be seen by the figures, the positions were reversed before the day ended. In the evening the library hall was crowded with artisans, many of them young men, and there was also a sprinkling of young women. The day's issues were:—Religion, 40; philosophy, 13; sociology, 39; science and art, 142; poetry, 21; fiction, 543; history, biography, and travel, 194; general literature, 155—total, 1147 volumes; juvenile library, 281—grand total, 1428 volumes. In the evening the news room and the reference

library were largely used — not a chair being unoccupied. So far the greatest interest has been taken in the library in all its departments, and it promises to become one of the most popular institutions of the city. The juvenile department was opened on June 19th, and has been very greatly used, so much so that many of the youngsters, unable to find seats, had to squat on the ground.

The library of scientific and artistic works, numbering 7,000 volumes, contained in the Museum of Science and Art, has just been thrown open to the public. The collection has hitherto been used only as a reference library for the officers of the museum.

HASTINGS.—The Town Council have decided to open the Reference Library to the public, from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m., without requiring either ticket or recommendation.

HOVE, SUSSEX.—The Hove Commissioners have appointed a sub-committee to make enquiries as to the desirability of establishing a public library at Hove.

LEICESTER.—The late Mr. H. Dalby Dudgeon expressed a wish that a considerable number of his books should, after his death, be placed in the Reference Library. The library committee have accordingly selected 425 volumes of high-class literature.

LEOMINSTER.—Much friction has arisen here with respect to the action of the “out-parishioners.” They held a meeting at the Talbot Hotel, and passed resolutions protesting against the establishment of the public library and repudiating the action of the Corporation. The chairman of the meeting having consulted the Local Government Board as to whether the “out-parishioners” did not come under 52 Vict. c. 9, and so were exempt from two-thirds of the penny rate, the Board in reply wrote that if, as they inferred, the area described as an out-parish was in fact within the borough, the Board could only refer him to the provisions of Section 2, Public Libraries’ Amendment Act 1866, which provided that the expenses might be paid out of the borough-rate, so long as the amount paid in one year did not exceed one-penny in the pound upon the rateable value. In such a case, they added, the provisions in 52 Vict. c. 9, s. 1, would not be applicable. The question will be further considered when the Government Inspector visits the town.

LONDON: BATTERSEA.—At a meeting of the vestry on July 9th, a strong effort was made to rescind the recent resolution against Sunday opening of the libraries. So far as actual votes went, the resolution was rescinded by 38 against 29, but the Local Government Act requires an absolute majority of the whole vestry.

LONDON: LAMBETH PALACE LIBRARY.—During the months of May, June, and July, Lambeth Palace Library is open daily (Saturdays excepted) from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., thus giving scholars extended hours of access to the valuable archives and books there preserved. Besides the advantages offered to the antiquary and historical student, the loan of modern books on theology and general literature is, on proper recommendation, granted to residents in the parishes of Lambeth, Southwark, and Westminster, a privilege some time ago established, but seemingly little known.

LONDON: ST. GEORGE’S, HANOVER SQUARE.—The vestry here have unfortunately listened to the counsel of folly in regard to the adoption of the Act. At the last meeting, a Colonel Ogilvy actually proposed to postpone the appointment of Commissioners for “an indefinite period,” and in spite of the sensible advice of the vestry clerk and the solicitor who reminded the vestry that the vote of the ratepayers was imperative, this ridiculous proposal was strongly supported. Only after grave warning as



to the probable consequences, did the opposition agree to modify the proposal to a postponement "till after the holidays." It would be well for those gentlemen who seem unable to accept defeat gracefully to be reminded that if an injunction and legal proceedings are the outcome of their action they are almost certain to be surcharged with the costs.

LONDON : ST. PAUL'S SCHOOL.—"The boys of St. Paul's School enjoy the advantage of an excellent library containing no fewer than 5,200 books. The library, which was founded towards the end of the seventeenth century, has of late years increased remarkably. In 1743 the number of books was but 830. In 1809 this fell to 789. With the appointment of Dr. Sleath there was a revival ; two lists made in his time, in 1828 and 1836, respectively, showing totals of 1,358 and 1,607. Under the late Dr. Kynaston the increase was fully maintained, a supplementary list published in 1859 raising the number to 2,233, or probably more. At the removal of the school to its new home, in 1884, the number of books was about 3,300, and it is now 5,200."—*The City Press*.

RUGBY.—The Public Libraries Act was unanimously adopted on June 30th at a public meeting of ratepayers. In addition to Mr. R. H. Wood's gift of a building for an institute and museum, the members of the Rugby Institute have offered their library of 3,000 volumes to the town. Dr. Percival, the head-master of Rugby School, and the Rev. C. Elsee, chairman of the local board, were among those who spoke in support of the proposal to adopt the Act. The resolution was seconded by Mr. H. Miller, a working man.

SALISBURY.—We have to thank Mr. C. W. Holgate for sending us a copy of the following letter, which effectually disposes of the foolish contention that the "majority" of the Act means a majority of the entire body of ratepayers :—

Local Government Board, Whitehall, S.W., 27th June, 1890.

SIR,—I am directed by the Local Government Board to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 5th inst., submitting a question with reference to the voting of the ratepayers of the city of Salisbury under the Public Libraries' Amendment Act, 1877, as to the proposed adoption in that city of the Public Libraries Act. I am to state that the Board are advised that any voting papers filled up in any other way than that specified in the Act of 1877 should be disregarded, and that the opinions of the majority of the ratepayers would be ascertained within the meaning of sec. 1 of that Act by a count of those remaining papers which are properly filled up by persons entitled to vote.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

C. K. DALTON, Assisiant Secretary.

W. C. Powning, Esq., Town Clerk, Salisbury.

Mr. Holgate also corrects the figures given at p. 271 as the result of the poll. The actual figures were : for, 984 ; against, 856.

WIGAN.—Colonel Ducat, R.E., a Government Inspector, has this month held a public enquiry into an application by the County Borough Council of Wigan to borrow £1,000 for the extension of the newsroom of the public library. The estimated cost of the work is £711, and the balance is to be appropriated to an alteration of the lending department. No opposition was offered to the application.

## Public Libraries Acts Amendment Bill.

THE House of Commons went into Committee on this Bill on July 9th. On Clause 2 Baron Dimsdale moved an amendment, the effect of which was to abolish the procedure by public meeting in all cases. The amendment was agreed to. Sir J. Lubbock moved to insert the following sub-clause :—" (4) All expenses in connexion with ascertaining the



opinion of the voters in any library district by means of voting papers, shall be borne in like manner as the expenses of holding a public meeting under the Libraries Acts are to be borne, with respect to that district, or would be borne if this Act had not passed." He said the insertion of those words would leave the law as it was. The amendment was agreed to.

On Clause 3, which provides for the levying and limitation of the rate, Mr. Rankin moved an amendment, the effect of which would be to allow the rate to be levied in different proportions on defined parts of a library district. He said the object of his amendment was to encourage rural and urban districts or scattered parishes to combine in establishing free libraries. It was obviously unfair that those who were a considerable distance from the place where the library was situated should pay in the same proportion as those who were near it. The difference in rateable value also worked injustice in some cases. His amendment would enable those differences to be adjusted. The amendment was agreed to.

The remaining clauses were agreed to.

On July 16th the Bill was recommitted, when it was resolved, "That it be an instruction to the Committee that they have power to insert clauses to enable persons holding land for public, ecclesiastical, parochial, charitable, or other purposes to grant such land for library purposes, and to extend the provisions of 18 and 19 Vict., c. 70, s. 18, to the metropolis," and clauses carrying out the instruction were agreed to.

The Bill was then read a third time.

### **Library Catalogues.**

Liverpool. Annual Supplementary Catalogue of the Liverpool [Proprietary] Library (with the Annual Report). Compiled by John Forester, 1890. Small 4to, pp. 36.

This handsome supplement is prepared on the plan of the large catalogue of the books in the Liverpool Library which was issued last year. Though it displays traces of haste (easily excusable during the difficulties through which the library has been passing), the work on the whole reflects credit on the compiler, whose first attempt at cataloguing we believe this to be. This catalogue offers an excellent text for a homily on unprofitable expenditure. The total number of volumes purchased was 941, of which 150 were magazines and 344 novels. A separate list of the magazines is given, so that the whole of the catalogue, containing about 3,000 lines of small type is devoted to 791 volumes. The 344 volumes of fiction probably represent about 250 works, for which two lines each would be a liberal allowance, leaving 2,500 lines for the description of 447 volumes, or say 350 works—an average of rather more than seven lines to each work! We question the wisdom of spending so much time and money on a mere annual supplement. A list under authors' names, with a subject index, would answer every purpose, and would cost about one-third of the money, and less than one-third of the time, spent on such an elaborate piece of work as that now before us. Let the card catalogue overflow with cross-references to subjects, and print as many of them as you can afford in your general catalogues, but your annual finding-list should be a model of compression and economy.

### **Gottings.**

LIBRARIANS have deserved, and sometimes received, the highest honours, but we are not aware that, until now, a mayor has been able to boast of being a librarian. The provisional mayor nominated in the charter of Richmond is Sir Edward Hertslet, C.B., a gentleman long resident in the

borough who, almost alone, was a supporter of incorporation at the inception of the movement in 1878. Sir Edward was born in 1824, and entered the Foreign Office in 1840. On the death of his father, he was appointed chief librarian there in 1857. He was present at the Congress of Berlin in 1878, and on his return received the honour of knighthood. Sir E. Hertslet has, in a quiet way, done much during the last ten years in favour of progressive movements in Richmond; he was a supporter of the free public library (one of the finest in the suburbs) and of the acquisition by the vestry of the lovely terrace gardens on the hill, in 1886.

WE have had several enquiries in reference to the admirable series of articles entitled "Walks round the Reference Library" which were published some time ago by Mr. Folkard in the Wigan papers. These were so excellent in their way that we can well understand many young librarians being anxious to see them, and for the sake of such we wish Mr. Folkard could be persuaded to reprint them.

A "RATEPAYER" makes an extraordinary complaint in the columns of the *Edinburgh Evening Despatch*. He states that he was refused a reader's ticket on the ground *that he had not voted at the last election!* We have not at hand a copy of the Scottish Act, and we cannot, without proof, believe that its provisions include such an idiotic restriction.

WE hope the efforts of the "Bullen Testimonial Committee" will result in a widely representative testimony to the regard in which Mr. Bullen is held by a wide circle of friends and acquaintances. Fifty years of successful and acceptable public service should under any circumstances have a strong claim on public recognition, but much more so when that time has been spent in the service of books which less than any other branch of public work affords opportunity for distinction or applause. The Committee have wisely decided that only the *names* of subscribers shall be published. The Treasurer is Mr. B. F. Stevens, 4, Trafalgar Square.

### Obituary.

MR. ROBERT HENRY SODEN SMITH, keeper of the Art Library at the South Kensington Museum, died on June 19th, aged 68. His father was Captain Robert Smith, of Dirleton, Haddingtonshire, Athlone Pursuivant of Arms. Mr. Soden Smith was educated at Trinity College, Dublin, and for more than thirty years held office at South Kensington. The formation of the Art Library was mainly his work. His portrait is given in the *Illustrated London News* of July 12th.

### Correspondence.

*To the Editor of the Library.*

#### STATISTICS.

DEAR MR. EDITOR,—I hope the article on "Statistics" will help to bring about uniform and simple methods of observing and recording the same facts. The writer says, "there seems no good reason for reckoning the issue of a three volume novel as one volume only." Now, whilst one library which buys the newest novels, as issued, is obliged to get them in the three volume form, another library gets the same book a little later as a single volume, and thus the first library will reckon three times the stock of fiction and three times the issue of the other in books of this class, whilst the same reading matter is possessed and issued by each. Again, if each volume of a novel has a separate number, and the book is, as is usual, replaced by a single volume edition, the catalogue becomes incorrect. Three volume novels are very objectionable in public libraries. They cost more, they occupy more space, and the cost of rebinding is



heavier. As far as is practicable they should be avoided, but if they are purchased they should be numbered as one volume, so that they can be replaced, when necessary, by a one volume edition. The same reasons may, of course, apply to books in other classes, but not to anything like the same extent, and besides, when necessary, those do not usually require such frequent renewal. I wish the Library Association would obtain from each library a detailed statement of its mode of issue and record, with the librarian's suggestions and experience of the system. If the results were classified and published in the *Library* and brought forward at an annual meeting, a very profitable discussion would ensue, leading, we might hope, to the common adoption of improved and uniform methods.

*Hawick.*

D. WATSON.

### Library Association Record.

In our last report we omitted to record the election of Mr. Frederick Hugh Mackenzie Corbet, Librarian of the Colombo Museum and Hon. Secretary of the Ceylon Branch of the Royal Asiatic Society, and of Mr. N. Don Martinu de Zilva Wickremasinghe, Assistant Librarian of the Colombo Museum.

New Members :—Mr. Henry Hucks Gibbs ; Mr. H. W. Fovargue, Town Clerk, Eastbourne ; Mr. Arthur Hamilton Smith, British Museum ; Mr. H. L. Riley, St. Helens.

The Council have appointed Mr. J. B. Bailey and Mr. J. Y. W. MacAlister, Hon. Secretary, to represent the Association as Delegates at the International Congress of Hygiene and Demography to be held in London in 1891.

#### THIRTEENTH ANNUAL MEETING, 1890. READING.

The Council have decided that one entire day shall be devoted to Public Library Legislation and as a convenient means of methodising discussion, Messrs. Ogle and Fovargue's Prize Library Bill\* will be considered, clause by clause, and amended by the votes of the majority of those present. In this way it is hoped to secure a draft bill which shall represent the opinion of the Association at large.

Members wishing to take part in the discussion will be supplied with copies of the Bill, and it will greatly conduce to the regularity and clearness of the debate if all proposed amendments are committed to writing and copies handed to the Secretaries at the beginning of the meeting.

Mr. W. H. Greenhough, the Local Hon. Secretary, sketches the outline of a most attractive programme for the entertainment of those attending the meeting.

On Tuesday evening there will be a reception at the Town Hall.

FIRST DAY : Luncheon in the Town Hall ; drive to Silchester.

SECOND DAY : Luncheon ; visits to ruins of Reading Abbey ; reception by the Berkshire Archæological Society ; visits to places of interest in the town ; Soirée in the Public Buildings.

THIRD DAY : Luncheon ; drive to Eversley ; Association Dinner.

FOURTH DAY : Trip up the Thames in steam launches to Wallingford (visiting the early Roman remains at Wallingford, the ruins of Wallingford Castle, and Mr. Davis's prehistoric relics and fine collection of coins) ; luncheon and tea on board the launches.

#### IMPORTANT.

*Mr. Greenhough requests that Members and others will give him the earliest possible notice of their intention to be present.*

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\* The Council wish it to be distinctly understood that they select this draft Bill merely as a basis of discussion, and that they express no opinion as to its provisions.



## PUBLIC LIBRARIES: MONTHLY RETURN OF ISSUES, &amp;c.

The returns for June which appear in this number will be the last of the present series which it is proposed to publish. The main object sought to be accomplished in the compilation of these statistics, has been to ascertain the possibility of getting a uniform return to which all libraries could contribute, and the response has been so large and steady as to amply justify the attempt. As it is very possible that in the near future some effort will be made to have library statistics compiled on a uniform system, it is thought advisable to relinquish the monthly in favour of a quarterly return, pending some definite result arising from the discussion which it is hoped will follow on a recent paper which appeared in the *Library*. The editor will accordingly be pleased to receive any suggestions as to the form which a quarterly return should take, and in the meantime tenders his most cordial thanks to those librarians who have taken the trouble to enlighten the public as to the work of their libraries by contributing to the monthly table.

JUNE, 1890.

Name and No. of Libraries in operation.	REFERENCE LIBRARIES.				Sunday Daily Average Attendance.	LENDING LIBRARIES.					
	No. of Vols.	Issue for Month.	Days Open.	Daily Average.		Borrowers on Register.	No. of days Books lent.	No. of Vols.	Issue for Month.	Days Open.	Daily Average.
Alloa 1 .....	701	18	24	1	...	1,250	7 & 14	6,868	2,777	24	116
Barrow 1 .....	2,411	698	25	27	...	2,449	14	13,537	7,999	25	319
Battersea 2 ...	7,066	1,066	25	42	...	8,875	14	15,869	18,416	25	736
Bristol 9 ...	23,444	7,196	30	240	844	10,663	7, 10 & 14	45,548	26,573	26	1,022
Brighton 1 ...	12,756	2,699	25	108	...	5,632	14	20,123	8,645	24	360
Bristol 6 .....	15,412	12,873	24	536	...	18,654	7	58,769	27,747	22	1,261
Cardiff 1 .....	13,375	1,189	25	47	...	6,335	14	17,515	9,485	25	383
Chelsea 2 .....	4,411	1,622	30	54	339	1,441	14	4,547	4,362	23	189
Chester 1 .....	...	...	...	...	...	1,771	10	8,331	3,401	25	136
Clapham 1 ...	630	461	21	22	...	3,860	14	4,570	6,472	21	308
Clerkenwell 1	1,342	...	...	...	...	3,052	15	8,835	6,107	25	244
Croydon 1.....	900	251	25	10	...	4,142	14	6,627	9,525	23	414
Ealing 1 .....	852	35	21	1	...	3,010	7	6,931	8,659	21	412
Fulham 1 .....	2,404	226	17	13	135	5,718	14	5,975	6,600	17	388
Glasgow: Bailie's Inst. 1	9,066	4,870	25	195	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Hamm's'th 1	1,469	225	21	10	...	4,296	7	7,065	15,884	21	756
Hanley 1 .....	2,109	388	25	16	...	1,850	7 & 10	5,835	4,912	25	197
Norwich 1.....	6,790	...	...	...	200	3,043	14	12,725	8,295	21	395 <sup>1</sup>
Oldham 2 .....	13,125	1,368	25	54	Nsrm. 200	4,613	8 & 14	17,668	7,480	25	299
Paddington 1	3,320	274	30	9	75	...	...	...	...	...	...
Portsmouth 1	5,442	256	24	10	...	12,062	7 & 14	19,224	24,343	24	1,014
Preston 1 .....	...	...	...	...	...	15,492	14	16,439	7,155	25	286
Reading 1 .....	3,630	449	24	19	...	7,147	14	15,958	6,616	18	367
Richmond 1 ...	7,598	426	21	21	...	2,952	7	9,066	6,802	21	324
Rochdale 1 ...	12,394	6,001	30	200	544	5,908	14	29,919	10,566	25	422
Sheffield 5 ..	13,096	2,916	25	116	...	15,246	7 & 14	80,467	24,359	24	1,015
Wandsworth 1	3,839	151	21	7	...	3,266	7	7,897	5,685	21	270
Westminster 2	Lending	6,660	26	267	...	3,883	14	22,347	7,139	26	275
Yarmouth 2 ...	2,228	334	24	14	...	3,126	7, 14	8,847	8,622	24	359

<sup>1</sup> Juvenile department worked in schools. 3,667 vols.; 5,850 issues.

## Harmonies of the Gospels, and Other Works, Made at Little Gidding.

By CAPT. J. E. ACLAND-TROYTE, M.A.

THE early life of Nicholas Ferrar, and how he was educated by his worthy and God-fearing parents; how he travelled over the continent of Europe; how he became one of the leading members of the Virginia Plantation Company, and successfully defended it against the libellous accusations of its enemies—all this and many other interesting details may be read in the different published accounts of his life. The most interesting is a work entitled *Cambridge in XVII. Century*. “Two lives of N. Ferrar, by his brother John and by Dr. Jebb, edited by Dr. Mayor,” published by Macmillan. There is also a *Life of N. Ferrar*, by Dr. Peckard, but his opinions of Ferrar are somewhat unfair, or at any rate, unfavourable. An abridged form of this work is now published by Masters.

Probably these volumes can be easily seen by all readers of *The Library*, and I will not waste their time or try their patience by serving up in a different form what they can read better for themselves elsewhere. But when we come to discuss those particularly interesting books “contrived by” N. Ferrar, and constructed by his hard-working family of nephews and nieces at Little Gidding, we find the details of them, as recorded in the books I have referred to, both incomplete and in some cases incorrect.

It is, therefore, on this subject that I presume to offer some information in these pages. Having in my own possession one of these Harmonies, I have been at some pains to learn the homes of other similar volumes, to compare them, and to discover their history. Perhaps I may just mention here that Nicholas Ferrar went to Little Gidding in the year 1625, and the place was ransacked by the Puritan soldiers in 1648, who not only drove the family away but destroyed everything valuable that they found there.

I am inclined to think that the first Harmony was merely intended as an aid to religious instruction; but after two had been

made for King Charles I., they became to a certain extent sought after by illustrious persons, and so acquired a money value. Thus we read in a letter of John Ferrar:—"My lord Wharton, on the sight of king's Concordance desired one of an inferior sort, for the king's stands us in above £100, but my lord Wharton's cost him but £37." And again, "If noble personages knew of them they might be casting away money on them as well as on other things." There can be no doubt, then, that had the family been left undisturbed at Gidding, many more of these goodly specimens of industry and skill would have been turned out. There is also, I am afraid, no doubt that many valuable books, MSS., and unfinished Harmonies were destroyed by the soldiers of the Parliamentary party.

Nicholas Ferrar himself died in December, 1637; and of all the volumes with which I am acquainted only three were completed in his lifetime; two of these are now in the British Museum, and the other is my own. Some, however, have no date given on the title page; it is, therefore, open to question whether or not they were made during the lifetime of the "dearest brother who left the invention and pattern" to those who continued his good work, after he was taken from them.

I will now describe one of the Harmonies of the Four Evangelists, and the manner of its construction, and I will then give some details of the others, which may be relied on as correct, as in every case I either examined the books myself, or received the information direct from their present owners during the year 1886. Now a casual glance at a page of the Harmony might convey the impression that it was an ordinary printed book, illustrated with engravings. But a closer inspection will show that nearly every verse, and in some cases every line, has been cut out of a printed copy of the Bible and then pasted on the pages of the Harmony according to a definite design. The design was this:—To bring together the accounts given by the different Evangelists of the various actions or doctrines of our Lord in such a manner that they might be read either as one connected history, or as related by any one writer.

It can have been no easy task, for every word of the four Gospels is in the Harmony and there is no repetition. Every subject is complete in itself, and each Gospel can be read through separately from first to last. The plan is simple and ingenious; the verses of each Evangelist are distinguished by different letters in the margin—



A	refers to	St. Matthew,
B	„	St. Mark,
C	„	St. Luke,
D	„	St. John.

And wherever two Evangelists use similar words in relating anything, the second time these words occur they are printed in a different type; the body of the work being in Roman letters, the words that are repeated by a second writer are inserted in old English.

The instructions for reading the Harmony are given in my volume in the following words:—"If you would read the Evangelicall history, keepe on still from one marking letter to another, reading onely that which is in the Roman letter. But if you would reade the Evangelists severally, then you must keepe still from section to section in the same letter with which you begin reading both Roman letter and the English letter; and whenever it happens, as it often doth, that that which followeth next in the Evangelist doth not follow immediately in the order of the concordance, then you shall find in written hand the first words of the Evangelist, and a direction of the chapter and page to which you are to goe."

The art of bookbinding, gilding and lettering was taught regularly at Gidding as well as what they called "pasting printing," which was the process by which the Harmonies were produced. N. Ferrar set apart a large room for this purpose, and here he spent a part of every day directing his nieces (the Miss Colletts and the Ferrars) how they were to arrange the verses or lines so as to perfect a chapter or subject; the Gospel history being divided for this purpose into 150 heads. First they cut the particular passages out of the printed copy roughly and laid them in their places on large sheets of strong paper, and when the subject was completed each piece was neatly fitted to the next belonging to it, and pasted evenly and smoothly together, and kept in its place by the help of a rolling press.

Nearly all the volumes are illustrated, every page being embellished with one or more engravings, "expressing either the facts themselves, or their types and figures, or other matters appertaining thereunto." These pictures were collected by N. Ferrar in his travels on the Continent during the years 1613-1618, and are doubtless very valuable, as it is stated that he secured the prints of the best masters, and let nothing of value escape him.

It will be a help to understand the construction of these books if I now give one or two extracts, and first I will give an example shewing how useful this system was (and indeed still is) in a careful study of the Gospel history. The marginal letters referring to the different Evangelists as already explained.

B. And again he entered

A. and came into his own citie

B. into Capernaum, after some days, &c., &c.

Here we see that by bringing the two narratives of Sts. Matthew and Mark together, the fact is clearly shewn that our Lord's own city was Capernaum, which would not otherwise be understood.

The next extract gives a specimen of the very neat way in which the words of the different Evangelists are made to fit in to make a consecutive story:—

C. And they were all amazed, and they glorified God

A. which had given such power unto men,

C. and were filled with fear, saying,  
We have seen strange things to-day,

B. We never saw it on this fashion.

A somewhat longer quotation must be given to shew the use of the two distinct types. Before reading this, reference should be made to the instructions given on a previous page.

### THE TRANSFIGURATION.

#### CHAPTER LXVII.

C. 9. And it came to pass about an eight dayes after these sayings **he took Peter and John and James,**

A. 17. **And after six days** Jesus taketh Peter, James and John his brother, and bringeth them up into an high mountain apart,

B. 9. **And after six days** Jesus taketh with him Peter and James and John, and leadeth them up into an high mountain apart by themselves,

C. And went up into a mountain to pray.  
And as he prayed the fashion of his countenance was altered **and his raiment was white and glistening,**

A. And was transfigured before them, and his face did shine as the sun, **and his raiment was white as the light.** And behold there ap=

peared unto them Moses and Elias talking with them, and he was transfigured before them.

B. And his raiment became shining exceeding white as snow, so as no fuller on earth can white them. And there appeared unto them Elias with Moses, and they were talking with Jesus.

C. And behold there talked with him two men, &c., &c.

To test the plan on which the Harmonies are constructed, this extract should be read through in the various ways intended by the compilers, as already described.

I will now look at their work from another point of view and shew how some one chapter of our Bible is dealt with. I take as an example the eighth chapter of St. Luke's Gospel.

Verses 1-3 appear on page 102 of the Harmony.

Verses 4-15 containing the Parable of the Sower, come on pp. 90-93, being interpolated with corresponding passages of the other Evangelists.

Verses 16-18 follow in order, but

Verses 19-21 are found on p. 90 before the Parable of the Sower.

Verses 22-25, "The Storm on the Lake," are placed still earlier in the Harmony, p. 45.

Verses 26-39, "The herd of swine drowned," follow on p. 47.

Verse 40 stands by itself on p. 50.

Verses 41 to the end of chapter, "The raising of Jairus' daughter," are given on p. 56.

This part of the work was probably arranged by Nicholas Ferrar himself, and may be termed the "head work," as compared with the mechanical fitting of the pieces together on which the younger members of the family were employed, and which may be appropriately called the "handiwork."

As an instance of the number of pieces which had to be pasted in, I may mention that in the chapter analysed above, seventeen verses required fifty-three separate cuttings. But the amount of trouble expended varies greatly in different parts of the volume. For instance, in the case of our Lord's discourses, which are recorded only by St. John, it often happens that a whole chapter is pasted in without any division. But even in these cases they did not save themselves trouble if by any means the general appearance of the book could be improved. Thus some of the most attractive pages are those where the verses might have been inserted in one piece as cut out of the originals,



but to fill the page nicely every line has been separately pasted in with very open spacing. In one page there are fifty-six lines treated in this manner where the whole passage might have been inserted entire, and this is by no means an exceptional case.

I will not now go into any further detail, and only trust that I have been able to convey some idea to my readers of the great pains taken, and the great industry necessary for the completion of one of the Harmonies. The more I study my own volume the more impressed I am with the skill and patience of the handy maidens of Little Gidding.

And yet my Harmony is one of the plainest and smallest of those I have seen. This is, I think, to be accounted for by the fact that it was made in the early days before the work was developed to any great extent; it was certainly in hand at the same time as the volume made for King Charles I., which is now in the British Museum; the dates of both are given on their title pages as 1635. This Royal Copy is a good deal larger than mine; the binding is very superior in finish and ornamentation, there are just twice the number of pages, and both inside and out it has a much more handsome appearance. The general plan and arrangement of subjects is, however, the same as mine.

Another Harmony of the Four Gospels is to be found in Lord Salisbury's library at Hatfield. It is a very fine work, of much the same size as King Charles', viz. 1 ft. 8 inches by 1 ft. 2 inches. It is bound in purple velvet, stamped gold; the pattern worked out in lines of small acorns, sprigs of oak and *fleurs de lis*. No date is given on the title page, and I believe it is certainly one of the later works, when greater proficiency had been acquired; but the titles and sequence of the chapters are the same as in the volumes already mentioned, and the wording of the title page is also similar. The earliest record of it in Lord Salisbury's family is a book plate on the inside of the cover, which bears the arms and name of "Right Hon. James Cecill, 1704," but in one of the histories of Gidding we find it stated that Prince James, Duke of York, in the year 1640, requested to have a Harmony made for him—that in course of time it was completed, but owing to the troublous times it was never presented to him, but was kept at Gidding. I think we shall not be far wrong if we put down this volume as now having an honoured home at Hatfield.

But a still greater work is the Harmony of the Four Evan-

gelistis in four different languages, now at Somerley, in Lord Normanton's library, and we have a full and exact account of the origin of this book and of its being presented to Prince Charles by Nicholas Ferrar, Junior, on Good Friday, 1640.

It appears that the prince was so much pleased with his father's Harmony, the volume dated 1635, that he wished to have it for his own; but the king would on no account part with it, and said that "he made no question, but the same heart and hands that framed his, would fit him also with one." Intimation of the Prince's wish reached Gidding after N. Ferrar's death, so his nephew and his beloved kinswomen "laying their heads together thought a concordance of four several languages would be most beneficial and pleasant to the prince's disposition." When finished, young Ferrar took it to London and first submitted it for the king's approval, and on the following day was sent down to Richmond and there delivered it to Prince Charles. This volume measures 2 ft. 1 in. by 1 ft. 5 in., and consists of 234 pages, bound in green velvet, the ornamentation being like the last mentioned—gold-stamped in patterns of sprigs of oak and *fleurs de lis*. The arrangement of contents is similar to the others, but on each page there are the four languages, English, Latin, French and Italian, in four parallel columns. The Harmony is generally known as "MONOTESΣAPON," which word is printed at the head of the title page. Lord Normanton does not know how long it has been in the Somerley Library, nor how it got there.

One curious incident may be referred to here. The last line of the title reads, "Done at Little Gidding, Anno 1640," but this had been carefully hidden from view by having a piece of paper pasted over it. I believe I am right in saying that Lord Normanton only discovered this when, in 1886, he was most kindly making a tracing of the title page for me. It is not very easy to understand the reason for thus obliterating a most important piece of evidence as to the history of a book which must have been valued by anyone who possessed it. One explanation there may be—viz., that its owner feared its falling into the hands of persons who so bitterly hated the name of Gidding that they might have wilfully destroyed anything bearing that name. But that class of bigot would probably have not waited to read the title page, but seeing the *fleurs de lis* and oak outside, and the sacred pictures within, would at once have committed it to the flames.

Lord Arthur Harvey, Bishop of Bath and Wells, owns another Harmony of the Four Evangelists. There is nothing particular to mention about it, with the exception that on the title page it is stated "Done at Little Gidding, Anno Dom. 1640, by Virginia Ferrar, an. 12."

This is an interesting little incident, as showing by the name, the former connection of the Ferrars with the Plantation Company. She was daughter of John Ferrar, and sister of the Nicholas Ferrar who made the "*Μονοτεσσαρον*." The first owner of this volume was one Thomas Harvey, who was connected in some way with the Court of Charles I., and the book has never left the family.

There are still two more Harmonies to be mentioned, similar to those already described, which makes seven in all, dealing with the Four Gospels. The peculiar interest of these books is that they still belong to what may be called representatives or descendants of the Ferrars. Two Miss Collets married two Mr. Mapletons, and both these Harmonies belonged to different members of that family at different times. One is now the property of Miss Heming, of Hillingdon Hill, Uxbridge. It is a smaller volume than some of the others, and its peculiarity is that there is only one type used for the letterpress, and the prints are nearly all of a small size. It is dated on the title page, "Done at Little Gidding, A.D. 1640."

The other volume was until lately the property of Mrs. Hodges, of Tiverton, Devon, but at her death in 1888 it passed to a Mr. Mapleton Davis, living in New South Wales, and I believe it is now in Australia, together with five MS. volumes of stories and conversations of the Collet sisters, which are referred to at length by Dr. Mayor, in the *Life of Nicholas Ferrar*, which he edited.

The general design of this Harmony is the same as of all the others. The binding is, however, of a different style, being red parchment, with the covers ornamented with white parchment perforated, stuck on and gilded.

The title page reads word for word the same as in my copy, but there is no date. A very interesting inscription occurs on the first blank page:—

"This was the book of my honoured aunt, Mrs. Mary Collet, compiled at Little Gidding by the direction of her uncle, Mr. N. Ferrar, and bound I believe by herself; it was given to me by my good and dear cosin, Mrs. Elizabeth Kestian, who dyed



August, 1715. I give it to my son, and if he dyes without issue, to my daughter Elizabeth Castrell and to her son Robert, and I desire that it may be preserved in my family as long as may be. There were never above two more of the form that I ever heard of, one of which was presented to Charles I., by his desire, when he was pleased to honour that family with a visit at Little Gidding, when he went from London into the North; and the other to King Charles II. at his restoration, 1660, by John Ferrar, who is now owner of Little Gidding from the aforesaid Mrs. Mary Collett, who as I think bound both the said books in purple velvet and richly gilded. That to King Charles I. was sent to him soone after he had been there.

“January 23rd, 1715.

JOHN MAPLETOFT.”

Although Mr. Mapletoft was not very well acquainted with the labours of his relations at Gidding, it is certainly interesting to have such a circumstantial account of this volume. Mrs. Hodges acquired it from a Miss Mapletoft, a relation living at Canterbury; the directions as to its disposal have therefore been thus far carefully complied with.

This concludes what I have to say about *Harmonies of the Four Evangelists*; but in addition to them, *Concordances* were also made at Gidding, of other parts of the Bible. Chief amongst these is “*The Books of Kings and Chronicles*,” now in the British Museum, made expressly for Charles I., and at his own suggestion. He said he often read these books but wished the “same skilful persons who had made him the first book to make yet another that he might read the stories of Kings and Chronicles so interwoven as if one pen had written the whole, and yet so ordering the matter that he might read them severally and apart if he would.”

This was promptly done, to Charles’ great delight. It is a good sized volume of 203 pages, dated 1637, but there are no illustrations in it.

In the British Museum there is a third book of which I cannot find any mention made in any of the records of Gidding. It contains the Acts of the Apostles and Revelation of St. John, and was sent to the British Museum from Windsor at the same time as the other Gidding books; but in many respects it is very different from the rest and I am not sure on what authority it is claimed as a Gidding production.

Two more volumes complete the list of works known to me, both of them comprising the five Books of Moses. One is dated

1640, and is now at St. John's College, Oxford. It is a large square folio of 128 pages, bound in purple velvet with gilt ornamentation. The exact history of this work is uncertain, but there is very fair evidence that it was made for Archbishop Laud, and by him sent to Oxford.

It seems quite probable that this is correct, for when the king had obtained one Harmony in 1635, and another two years later, nothing is more likely than that his great friend should also ask for a similar prize and that the industrious family should be glad to comply with the wishes of the prelate who had ordained Nicholas Ferrar, and was accounted one of his chief supporters.

The last volume I have to mention is a magnificent specimen of artistic industry. It measures nearly 2 ft. 5 in. by 1 ft. 8 in., contains 441 pages of very thick paper, is profusely illustrated, and is beautifully bound in purple velvet, stamped gold.

There can be little or no doubt that this Harmony was made for Prince Charles, but was never actually presented to him. He was at Gidding in the year 1642 with the king, and they both saw the book which was then nearly finished; it was greatly admired, and having had it in my own hands I can fully bear out the remark made of it by one of the royal party, "that the largeness and weight of it were such, that he that carried it seemed to be well laden."

The title page commences thus: "The whole Law of God as it is delivered in the five books of Moses, methodically distributed into three great classes, moral, ceremonial, political," &c.

There is no date given. It now belongs to Captain Gaussen, of Brookmans Park, Herts, but its history is obscure. In the year 1776 it was bought by Rev. J. Bourdillon, and at that time he knew little about its origin, for we read: "*Dolendum neque authoris nomen, neque quo mirabile opus confectum est anno declarari.*—JACOBUS BOURDILLON, V.D.M." Moreover, at the beginning of the present century it was found in Brookmans Park House, walled up in a secret cupboard, and Captain Gaussen informed me he did not know of any connection between his family and that of Mr. Bourdillon.

Before closing this article I cannot resist the opportunity of mentioning that there certainly were some other Harmonies made at Gidding and that though I have tried my best to find out where they now are, I have completely failed.

I quoted earlier in this paper an extract from a letter of John

Ferrar, saying that Lord Wharton had paid £37 for a Harmony. Similar works were also made for Dr. Jackson and George Herbert, and I consider it most likely that these "rare contrivances" are still somewhere carefully preserved; and there is also the Ferrar's original private copy to be accounted for. Having now the privilege of addressing myself to a body of readers in the very best position for helping me to elucidate this matter, I trust I may boldly appeal to them for help, and should they know at the present time, or be able to discover any more of these interesting volumes, I should be extremely grateful if the fact were communicated to me.





## The Free Public Library, Auckland, N.Z.

THIS Library was first opened to the public on Sept. 7th, 1880, and occupied a somewhat unpretentious building in an obscure part of the town. It contained at that time about 5,300 volumes, made up from the Provincial Council Library, and the Library of the Mechanics' Institute, and it claims to be the first library supported by rates in this part of the world. A wealthy citizen, Mr. Edward Costley, dying in the early part of 1883, left a munificent bequest of something like £12,150 to be expended upon the library, and this produces an income of about £800 per annum. On the 4th of June, 1885, the foundation stone of the present magnificent building, known as the Free Public Library and Art Gallery, was laid; towards the end of 1886 the City Council purchased 1,700 volumes, making a total of 7,000 volumes; and on the 27th of March, 1887, the new building was formally opened to the public.

Sir George Grey, K.C.B. (to whom the public of Auckland will for ever be indebted), having added his superb collection of books, to the number of 9,000, the total number of volumes in the library at the end of 1887 amounted to about 16,000. Owing to this generosity on the part of Sir George Grey, Auckland now boasts of a library unequalled in intrinsic value south of the equator, and it must be a matter of no small surprise to tourists and visitors from Europe and America, to see in so comparatively young a country MSS., of the middle ages, of which there are no copies or duplicates in existence. These MSS., dating from the 10th century, and some 53 in number, are in Latin, Greek, Ethiopic, and Arabic, and may be considered priceless.

To mention a few of them—first and foremost perhaps are the Four Gospels, written in Greek, and said to be from Mount Athos.

Aristotle's *Metaphysica*, end of the 14th century, is a splendid manuscript, containing minute marginal notes, in what might almost be called microscopical writing.

The Sonnets of Petrarch, a MS. of the 15th century, beautifully illuminated with miniature portraits.

Gregorius Magnus, a large square folio in the original binding. Concerning this MS. Dr. Adam Clarke says—"From the binding it appears that this volume formerly belonged to Henry

V., King of England. The leather is embossed with various devices. On the right side there is a square compartment, divided into sixteen parts, in each of which, in a lozenge, there is a rose. In a square contained within this there is another square, in the centre of which is the Lancastrian rose, and in a scroll round about the following legend—

‘ Hec rosa virtutis de celo missa sereno  
Eternum florens regia sceptrā feret. ’

The scroll and rose are supported by two angels kneeling; over the head of the one, on the left appear the sun and stars, and over that on the right the moon and stars are represented, and at the bottom—H Rex V. On the left hand side, in a square as before, there is another, in which there is a large shield, containing the Arms of England and France, quartered, three fleur de lis, and three lions passans guardans. The shield is surrounded with a royal crown, and is supported by a greyhound, more like a wolf, on the right, and a griffin on the left. Over the head of the griffin appear the sun and stars, and over the head of the greyhound or wolf, the moon and stars. At the bottom of the shield is an H. V., the initials of Henry V. On each cover, at the oblong end of the square, which contains the scroll and arms, are two compartments, four on each cover, in each of which a pelican is represented, with her young in a nest, which she is feeding with her blood. As Henry V. came to the throne in 1413, and died in 1422, this MS. must have been bound within that period, about 400 years ago.”

Coming down to later times we have the documents known as the Cromwell Documents, containing an original treaty concluded by Richard Cromwell in 1659, and bearing the signatures and seals of Lambert, Wal. Strickland, Lyle, and other men of historical fame; included in the documents is the original correspondence which passed between Thurloe, the English statesman of the time, and Sir P. Meadows, 1657-1658. There are also two very curious French documents, one a passport dated Versailles, 1783, and bearing the signature of Louis XVI., the other a warrant on the French treasury, with the signature of Marie Antoinette. Last, but not least perhaps, among the MSS., may be mentioned the journal of Capt. James Cook, dated 1769-1770, in the hand-writing of Capt. Cook; this of course is of special interest to all New Zealanders.

In the section allotted to early printed books, of which there

are a great number in the Grey Collection, is a splendid copy of St. Augustine's *De Civitate Dei*, printed by Wenzsler, at Bale, in 1479 and is probably next to the Editio Princeps. This Library which may be said to be the only one in the Southern Hemisphere which has in its possession three works printed by William Caxton, the father of English printing; the *Polycronicon*, 1482, is probably the most valuable of the three Caxtons in the Auckland Library; it is in splendid preservation, the initial letters of the chapters, the dates, paragraph marks, &c., are all carefully filled in with red ink, which remains still quite bright and clear. Next in value is the *Golden Legend*, printed in 1483; this copy has been re-bound, and the sheets have been most carefully treated, evidently by some skilled person. There are 449 printed folios, with three blanks. No copy yet found is perfect, and the Auckland *Golden Legend* wants both the beginning and the end. The third work of Caxton's is the *Boke of Eneydos*, "compyled by Vyrgyle," 1490. The book is in fine condition; the type is large and easily read, when the eye has become accustomed to the forms of the letters and the old fashioned spelling; it is printed in Caxton's No. 6 type. There is no title page. Here also may be seen a copy of the majestic verse of Chaucer, in almost as good condition, and nearly as fresh as when it came from the press of Richard Pynson, in 1493. There is, however, an earlier work of Pynson's, *The Statutes of Henry VII.*, "Emprynted by my Richard Pynson, 1479."<sup>1</sup> But to enumerate individually all the early printed works in the Grey Collection would exceed the limits of an outline sketch. There are, however, 25 volumes of the 15th century, 58 of the 16th century, 40 of the 17th century, and 20 of the early part of the 18th century.

The library is peculiarly rich in philology, no less than 216 different languages and dialects being represented, principally in the theological and philological departments.

There are also a great number of pamphlets; these are bound up in volumes, and form a section of their own in which there are 166 volumes. The autograph letters in the Grey Collection amount to about 7,000, and among a few of the most prominent may be mentioned the autographs of Lord Nelson, Herschel the astronomer, Dr. Livingstone, Capt. Sturt the Australian

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[<sup>1</sup> This must be an error; more probably 1497.—ED.]



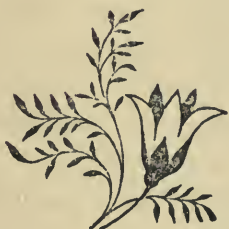
explorer, Florence Nightingale, the Duke of York, Thomas Carlyle, &c., &c.

Owing to the recent gifts of Sir George Grey, donations from other sources, purchases, &c., the library has greatly increased during the last year or so, and the total number of MSS., volumes, &c., in the library at the present time is 20,239.<sup>1</sup>

W. L. F. COVERT,  
*Assistant Librarian.*

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<sup>1</sup> We are informed by Mr. Petherick, the editor of *The Torch*, that, "Auckland is well off for public libraries, as in addition to the Free Library, it possesses also 'A Library for State School Teachers,' a 'Law Library' (attached to the Supreme Court), and 'The Auckland Institute and Museum.' The last-named contains over 3,000 volumes and tracts relating to, or issued in, New Zealand, and a larger number of a scientific character, mostly the gift of the late J. T. MacKelvie, Esq. This library shares also in the Costley bequest to the city of Auckland."



## On Books and Reading.

*An Address delivered at the opening of the Minet Free Public Library, Camberwell.*

BY SIR LYON PLAYFAIR.

I HAVE to congratulate Camberwell and Lambeth on having, by united action, determined to support a library common to both parishes. Their desire to do so led to new legislation last year, and the amendment of the law now enables all parishes throughout the country to follow this excellent example. This is the third library which I have been invited to open in this district. I recollect with pleasure opening one, generously built by Miss Dering Smith, at Norwood; another in South Lambeth Road, erected by the munificence of Mr. Tate, and now you have done me the honour to ask me to open this beautiful and well-adapted building, which you owe to the generosity of Mr. Minet. If my memory serve me right, it is the same Mr. Minet who gave you a park, and directed that its gates should be opened without ostentation or display. It would, no doubt, be distasteful to him if I enlarged on his generosity on the present occasion, so I merely group him with other benefactors who already have founded, or who have promised to found, libraries in the parishes of Camberwell and Lambeth. Already this list includes the names of Miss Dering Smith, Mr. Minet, Mr. Tate, Mr. Noble and Mr. Livesey, and their subscriptions for the public benefit amount to between fifty and sixty thousand pounds. When all these libraries are completed, Lambeth and Camberwell will probably be better supplied with free libraries than any other parish in England. I am told that each of these libraries now give out daily from 350 to 400 books to be taken to the homes of the people. It is difficult to estimate the amount of good done in this way. In olden times, such as those of Greece and Rome, when literature and philosophy flourished with such splendid luxuriance, it was difficult for the people to participate in the treasures of learning which had been produced from their own ranks. These did not arise from kings and princes, but were the actual production of those engaged in industry. The philosophers were the sons of citizens, and generally carried on the trades of their fathers. Thales was an oil merchant, Aristotle a druggist, Socrates a stonemason, Plato

a merchant. Their discoveries and experiences were communicated and enshrined in their own vernacular. There were no books then as understood by us, for manuscripts were rare and costly; so lectures took the place of books; Socrates taught in the market place of Athens, Plato in the groves of Academus, and Aristotle walked up and down lecturing to those who followed him in his walks. Thus much of the wisdom of these men became lost to mankind. Of Socrates we have only shreds and patches of his works and sayings. He gave to his students that intellectual and moral strength which have made their writings immortal, but of the works of Socrates we have none left. How infinitely better are we in our time. The press multiplies books so that there is no chance of a worthy one being lost. We are not limited to the personality and to the generation of an individual author, but we possess him for ever. The lecture age is past and the age of libraries for the people is inaugurated. Before we reached our present position ages rolled by when the learned were separated from the people. Although Greece and Rome used their own languages for the learned, after the Dark Ages there came a revival of learning, when books were written and lectures given in Latin, not understood by the people, who had therefore to live apart, accumulating their own experiences, but were completely separated as by a wall from the learned class. This wall was broken down at the end of last century, and now authors and readers use and understand the language of their country. There is no longer an excuse for any of us to remain ignorant. Still it is not easy for us to know or even to read. It is far easier *not* to know and not to read. There is our natural indolence to be overcome. We do our work during the day, and it requires effort on our part to add to our stores of knowledge when our day's work is over. We know by the increasing demand for books at our free libraries, that there is a desire among the working classes to make this effort. They sometimes wish to be guided what to read, as we see in the demands made to tell them what are the best books. We see prizes offered in the newspapers for a list of the best hundred books suitable to readers in public libraries. The purpose is commendable, but the answer is impossible. Instruction, recreation, the varieties of human minds, are all involved in the answer. Then knowledge is not the only condition of such a problem. The moral sensibilities are the warp and woof of human history. To a



healthy mind the choice had best be left to the individual reader. Perhaps on the whole Shakespeare's maxim is the most reliable :

“ No profit grows, where is no pleasure ta en,  
In brief, sir, study what you most affect.”

The readers in a library, even if they take up at first trashy books, will soon learn to distinguish them from those which reflect the true light of the author's own generation, and of past periods of history. Shakespeare is a great poet and author, not only because he had sparkling gems of his own thoughts set in his writings, but because he concentrated in the mirror of his mind and reflected from one focus, the sparkle of gems belonging to others. Take for instance his play of Henry VI., out of 6,000 lines, only 1,900 were entirely his own, and the rest was founded on other authors, but so beautifully reset and preserved that the whole sparkles and shines with a resplendence which the separate jewels never had before. A great author is often chiefly valuable because he concentrates, and then reflects from his mirror all the light of his time in regard to the subject on which he is writing. It is this which makes the books of first-class novelists so instructive as well as entertaining. Walter Scott had this faculty in a high degree. He reflected light upon a particular period, and by his masterly powers as a delineator of character, made us live in the time which he described, and often portrayed history better than the historian. Thackeray and Dickens frequently chose the vices and weaknesses of society upon which they threw their brilliant concentrated light, and exposed them in a way which teaches us how to avoid them. Experience in reading soon teaches you how to distinguish the gold from the tinsel. An ancient rabbi once said, “ The penalty of untruth is untruth,” and if you confined your reading to penny dreadfuls and impossible romances, I fear that you would degrade your moral standard. The converse is also true that the reward of truth is truth, so if you avoid mean books, your whole inner man will be improved. The managers of public libraries have a selection of books, which, though not always of the highest order, are never of the lowest character. I have looked over your catalogue, which already contains very many excellent works. I should like to see certain standard works which will no doubt be added as funds are available. Every public library should have a few books in good translations, showing the knowledge, philosophy, and sentiment of the ancients. Homer occupies a place in history as well as in poetry which nothing

else can supply. Herodotus, as a father of history is often dull, but his works contain a wonderful description of countries as he knew them, and abound in splendid anecdotes. Plutarch has charming lives of great men, most readable and invigorating; his lives of Lycurgus, Alexander, Demosthenes, Cimon, Marcellus, are biographies at their best. In Plato the philosopher and the politician will find every harvest of reform, and almost every suggestion of modern humanity. In his works you will acquire a full education, that is a drawing out of your best faculties, even if you had no other books to read. I see that you have Pope's translations, though there are others which are better, because it contains too much of Pope and too little of Homer; but Plutarch, Herodotus, and Plato you have still to acquire, and I throw this out as a hint to some of my hearers who may desire to enrich your library with standard works.

Of Latin works there are some translations which I should like to see added. Horace I see you have, and he is indispensable because he was the eye of the Augustan age. Tacitus, the wisest of historians, is not yet on your shelves; Gibbon I am glad to see you have, for that will help you on in Roman story, down fourteen hundred years of time, with as much ease and comfort as a railroad now carries us over vast tracts of country.

In regard to our own English works I need not detain you. Milton, both in his poetry and prose, is the master of perfect English. His prose has the power of the orator and the glow of the poet. Read his portrait of Cromwell in the second defence of the English people, and then read the prayer which ends his work on the Reformation of England. You cannot pick up a single fragment of Milton's prose without wondering at its perfection.

But I find that this library would never be opened if I continued to ramble among my favourite authors. I confine myself to only one more. You have the poor always with you, and you ought to know their virtues, their aspirations, their feelings. There is one poet who describes them better than all the sermons and writings of philanthropists that I have ever read. Unfortunately its dialect is difficult to Southern tongues. I need not say that I allude to Burns. You should read the "Cottar's Saturday Night," "Bonnie Doon," "John Anderson, my Jo"; or, even, "Auld Lang Syne," and if you master the Scotch I promise that you will discover that your eyes are not merely



organs of vision, but that they are also fountains of tears. Perhaps some of you may be disappointed because I am not more practical, and tell you from my own experience what you or your sons should read. I recollect that Dr. Johnson answered a desire of this kind in his own sententious way—"Whilst you stand deliberating which book your son shall read first, another boy has read both: read anything five hours a day and you will soon be learned." My advice is, read any books provided that they are not mean books, and I do not think you will find these on your shelves. It is well occasionally to go back to old books, because they have been winnowed by the fan of time, and the chaff that existed in those days has been blown away and disappeared. Recollect that our knowledge now is an accumulated inheritance from the past. Things strange to our ancestors are the commonplaces of to-day. We know so much more than our fathers, simply because we are their sons. "George Eliot" was struck with an observation of a peasant, that "Noah must have been surprised when all the animals walked into the ark, because he was not like us, sir, accustomed from a boy to Wombwell's Menageries." It is the accumulated knowledge of the past which descends to us as an inheritance, the will or testament by which we obtain it being our books. The best and noblest of our authors now can give little to futurity compared with the wealth of knowledge which they inherited from the past. I recollect coming upon a passage in Roger Bacon, written in 1267, which expressed this view delightfully:—"The ancients have committed all the more errors just because they are the ancients, for in matters of learning, the youngest are in reality the oldest. Modern generations ought to surpass their predecessors because they inherit their labours." This idea of Friar Bacon in the thirteenth century was condensed by Lord Chancellor Bacon three centuries later in his well-known apothegm *Antiquitas seculi juvenus mundi*—The antiquity of ages is the youth of the world. I am glad to see that you have the works of the later Bacon on your shelves. They are all good reading except his apothegms, or short instructive remarks, which give me little pleasure. As I am gossiping about books, I may remind you that Lord Brougham hoped the time would come when every peasant in England would *read* Bacon. Upon which Cobbett made the practical remark that "he hoped the time would come when every peasant in England would *eat* Bacon." I hope both aspirations will be fulfilled. Many of us are trying, my friend Mr. Evan Spicer most of



all, by founding polytechnic institutions to direct our youth in the acquisition of technical education, so that they may dignify and fructify their labour. Yet this desire does not prevent us wishing that you should improve the culture of your mind by reading, although it is outside your daily work. I have said that the books on our shelves are the wills or testaments by which the knowledge and culture of the past are bequeathed to and inherited by each individual among us if we choose to take up that inheritance. Let each of us appreciate and use these great possessions. For each one of us the accumulated mental treasures of the past are at our disposal. In the words of Goldsmith:—

“For me your tributary stores combine  
Creations heir; the world, the world is mine.”



## Notes on a Collection of Nottinghamshire Books.<sup>1</sup>

ONE of the most important functions of a rate-supported library—the preservation of local books and pamphlets—has only of late years engaged general attention.

At the 1878 Conference of the Library Association, Mr. Wright, of Plymouth, read a paper upon “Special Collections of Local Books in Provincial Libraries,” in which he pleaded that “every provincial library which is designed to be the central or public one of its district, should, in addition to its recognised reference department, be the repository for works connected with the city, town, county, or district of which it is the centre.”

For ten years previously such a scheme had been in full operation at the Nottingham Free Public Reference Library.

In 1867, when the lace town adopted the Acts and a public library was established there, Mr. Martin Inett Preston, an influential citizen and ex-sheriff of Nottingham, presented from his own library more than a hundred books and pamphlets relating to the county, a list of which appeared in the catalogue of 1868, now in itself a rarity. These formed the nucleus of our local collection.

The enthusiastic way in which it has been built up is shown by the fact that in the first catalogue of the reference department, issued by Mr. Briscoe in 1872—five years after the Acts had been in operation—the number of local volumes entered was 320, and about 230 pamphlets; a total of 550. At the present time we have a local library consisting of several thousands of pamphlets and over 1,500 volumes of local interest—a collection which is certain to prove of immense interest to future generations of townspeople. The antiquity of Nottingham and the literary eminence attained by some of its sons, make much of this of great historical and literary value, more than compensating for any writings of ephemeral interest that may find a snug resting-place upon our book-shelves.

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<sup>1</sup> The above paper was read at the meeting of the North Midland Library Association, held at Nottingham, as reported in a previous number.

Two Notts worthies—Byron and Henry Kirke White—have already outgrown the limited shelf-room allotted in a general collection, and each has taken up an independent position as the “Byron” and “Kirke White” collections. An extensive literature has gathered round the name of the legendary Sherwood Forest outlaw, Robin Hood, and works dealing with this hero are classed apart—ready at hand for young readers who may be attracted by his exploits. Many of our local books are constantly in demand among young people. They attract by reason of their being the brainwork of local men, and stimulate a spirit of emulation and the pursuit of knowledge, emphasising a statement made some years ago by Professor Macgregor that “people liked local books, and the boy who began by reading about his own parish would not stop until he had read about the universe.”

Topographical and historical works, mostly ponderous quartos, are in general use; and several valuable archæological books, issued of late years and showing much painstaking research, have been written, I may almost say, within the four walls of the reference library—an additional proof, if any were needed, of the value of local collections.

Our “poets’ corner” includes the names of Robert Dodsley, Philip James Bailey (“Festus”), Edwin Atherstone, Robert Millhouse, and William and Mary Howitt, besides Byron and Kirke White, already mentioned.

Thomas Miller and Mortimer Collins, although not Nottinghamshire men, still have an intimate connection with the county; Miller, the “basket-maker poet,” lived many years in Nottingham, and the first-fruits of Collins’s pen appeared in *The Nottingham Athenæum*, a literary miscellany.

We have just ready for issue<sup>1</sup> a catalogue of the Notts collection, uniform with our other reference class lists, and consisting of nearly one hundred pages, arranged chronologically, with an Index Nominum.

It is divided into seven parts:—(1) The general collection, embracing a period of 350 years, and extending to 65 pages; (2) the poll books of the borough; (3) directories and local annuals; (4) the Robin Hood collection; (5) Corporation reports; (6) the Byron collection, with 220 separate entries; (7) the Kirke White collection. In the form of *addenda* we

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[<sup>1</sup> Since the above was contributed the catalogue has been issued.—ED.]



have been able to include all late additions and works recently issued. In this list Mr. J. Potter Briscoe has made the first important contribution towards a complete bibliography of Notts books and pamphlets, one of those "things for the future" which are certain to be the natural outcome of the growth of the times and the enlargement of ideas.

PAUL HERRING.



## The Peoples' Palace Library.

*"The Free Library is a great school inviting the humblest workman to come and be a student."*

**A**MONG the increasing free libraries in London, the Peoples' Palace claims special attention as being the second absolutely free public library started in East London, Bethnal Green being, I believe, the first.

It is not under the Acts, nor in any way supported by rates, and the trustees not only maintain the library and reading room out of the heavily taxed resources of the institution, but actually pay out a considerable yearly sum for parish rates levied on the building; a fact not generally taken into consideration by the public.

The present library building, designed by Mr. E. R. Robson, from the old kitchen at Durham erected by Prior Forcer, A.D. 1368-1370 (with slight modifications), and executed by Messrs. Perry and Co., of Bow, at a cost of £10,000, was in course of erection at the time of the completion of the Queen's Hall in May, 1887.

The room is octagonal, each of the piers being surmounted by a bust of some eminent man of letters, executed by Mr. Verheyden. There is shelf accommodation for 250,000 volumes, and the fittings are of iron. A very fair sketch of the arrangement and decoration of the room was published in *The Builder* of September 7th, 1889. The room is heated by hot-water pipes, ventilated by Tobin's tubes, and lighted by eight gas pendants, with albo-carbon burners, and sixteen gas standards, each with two branch lights—the latter being the gift of a generous friend of the institution, at a cost to him of about £200.

The galleries are reached by doors leading from spiral iron staircases running from the basement to the roof of the building. Books are sent down from the galleries in wooden boxes, clamped with brass, running along copper wires stretched from each side to a central pole, and worked by means of wheels fixed to the wall in the gallery. It is a disadvantage of this plan that these wheels take up too much room. The boxes are each capable of containing 112lbs. weight of books, and are found to be an immense saving

of labour and time, as they can easily be managed by two persons—one in the gallery to procure the volumes and one on the ground-floor to receive and distribute them to the readers at the tables, which are all numbered. The whole arrangement of the tables and counter is to a certain extent based on that of the British Museum Reading Room. We are indebted to that institution also for many valuable hints and much kindly assistance.

When the Peoples' Palace was first dreamed of, it was thought it would not be complete without a library, which was considered not only as a luxury, but also as a necessity, and as the trustees were anxious that the work should begin with the completion of the Queen's Hall, it was fitted up with bookcases and tables, &c., and thrown open to the eager public in October, 1887. Two lady librarians were appointed to take charge. The idea, I believe, of employing ladies was an outcome of Sir E. H. Currie's and Mr. Walter Besant's busy brains, and I think I am right in stating that Miss Low and Miss Black were the first ladies employed in such a responsible post in the metropolis.<sup>1</sup>

Ladies, I know, are being increasingly engaged in libraries, both in the provinces and London, with satisfactory results; but I shall not dwell on this subject, as it has been ably discussed already by Miss Black, in *The Queen* of February 23rd, 1889, and by Miss Richardson, of St. Helens, in a paper read before the meeting of the librarians of the Mersey District on 28th February last. There is a diversity of opinion on this subject, but let me here state that the prevailing idea that women wish to oust men from such posts is entirely wrong. I am sure I speak for my sex when I say that we do not in this or any other field of labour wish to cross swords, although at the same time I grant that circumstances have given ground to the oft-repeated statement.

Appeals for books to supply the library were made far and wide, and such was the generosity of the public, especially publishers (to whom we are deeply indebted), that we were enabled to start with a total of 7,332 volumes—3,000 of these were presented by Isaac Pitman, of Bath, who has been a good friend to us and many other institutions. About 350 to 400 volumes were inherited from the Beaumont Institution. These had been lent to Toynbee Hall up to this date, and were all more or less

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[<sup>1</sup> Miss Stamp, of Notting Hill Public Library was, we believe, the first lady librarian of a public library in London.—ED.]



out of repair, being very old, as may be imagined. Parcels of books for some weeks arrived in large numbers every day, and arranging and cataloguing these was a Herculean labour. The librarians worked under disadvantages for the first few months, as there was no regular catalogue, the whole of the books having to be made ready for use in the short space of fourteen days, or rather under.

Every effort was made to keep pace with the work, and to prepare a temporary catalogue, which was in the form of slips pasted on to the pages of a volume, as far as possible in alphabetical order; but as may be imagined this hardly met the requirements of the public. Forms of application for books were printed after the style of those used at the British Museum, our principle being to retain that part containing the name of the book, and to return a slip detached by perforation as receipt for the same. Tickets of admission lasting one week were issued to intending readers, who had to sign their names in a register, which to the student of caligraphy would be most interesting and amusing. After the opening in October, 1887, for some time the hall was crowded by day and night beyond anything we have ever experienced since; of course this was due mainly to curiosity, and to the novelty of the movement in East London.

Those who know the splendid proportion of the Queen's Hall, will hardly credit that frequently there was not sufficient sitting accommodation! As there was only one manuscript catalogue, there was of course much inconvenience and delay experienced in procuring and delivering books, moreover this catalogue being in constant use all day was soon unfit for use, and at night it had to be taken away and copied by the librarians, and any friends they could press into the service; these I may here say were fortunately many.

The inexperience of the attendants was another drawback, which, considering the press of work, and the multifarious questions with which they were besieged on all sides, was wonderfully and creditably overcome in a very short space of time. It was very difficult to impress upon visitors the stern necessity for "silence," and the continual rambling in and out of that class of persons so well-known as "loafers," was a constant and grave annoyance. Moreover the Queen's Hall was frequently wanted for concerts and entertainments, and whilst these were going on, no library work could be done. And then there was,

to add to our primary discomforts, no room for unpacking or stowing, and the constant fear of losing books. I must say considering our many drawbacks, we lost very few books, and those only at the outset. Under the foregoing circumstances, it may be imagined with what feelings of relief we hailed the completion of the new library.

This was opened on June 16th, 1888, but the fittings and transfer of books had yet to be completed, and as the workmen were still in possession of the room, putting, what always seems to the impatient would-be-occupiers, the last unnecessarily lingering touches, the librarians did not commence the work of transferring the books, and establishing themselves in the new building, till after the visit of H.R.H. the Duchess of Albany, on August 4th, 1888. All possible haste was made, although even then all the shelves were not up, and the library was finally opened to the public on October 8th, 1888.

I remember, when the work of transfer was in progress, and visitors were constantly shewn round—a small boy very much amused us, by rushing in and breathlessly exclaiming at the top of his small voice, as he pointed to the bust of Shakespeare, “Why there’s old Shakespeare! they’ve actually got old Shakespeare, well! I didn’t think they’d have him.” These busts of eminent worthies have created from time to time much critical interest. One man was heard to remark, “Them fellows must be thought a deal of, they’re up mighty high,” and another “If they was eminent they needn’t be so stuck up that folks couldn’t get a sight of them.” Most of our visitors, gentle and simple, (if an East Londoner can be so described), have been astounded at the loftiness of our spacious reading-room. The actual library itself may be best described as a growth, and considering that we began work with considerably under 10,000 volumes, and that little or no money has been spent on the purchase of books, we have reason, we think, to congratulate ourselves on our present position, after two years’ probation, as a library containing over 11,000 volumes, most of them standard literature, and all the leading papers, journals, reviews, &c. For this we have to express our thanks as due to a great extent to the generosity of our many friends and well-wishers. A large proportion of our books is second-hand, but none the worse for that, and were it not for the poetical proclivities of young England, as instanced in the indelible inky scrawls decorating or defacing the pages chiefly of Latin and Greek prosodies, and arithmetic books, we should have no



objections to make. Though all other literature fail, I believe we should still find a constant onward flow of such educational works, and they would, I am confident, all be adorned by the youthful effusions of embryo poets.

Where do all the old theological books come from? That is a question that is of much interest, and how is it that whenever a parcel is received with the words "we have a few books to spare," the volumes of theology are almost invariably identical in every case. We always know what to expect, and cannot but resent such "charity" and pity the households in which apparently so little theological variety is admitted. All books, old or new, dirty or clean, are grist to our mill—if they will not do for one purpose they will for another, and I suppose every librarian will understand what I am darkly hinting. "Weeding out" is undoubtedly a matter of interest to most librarians, but we have here little scope for discretion in excluding "Claptrap" books which, as Carlyle says, "merely excite the astonishment of foolish people," inasmuch as in my experience here I have seen but one volume, which could come under this head. The difficulty we have, is to keep *only* what is likely to be of real use to our readers, and to suit their tastes, whilst avoiding filling our shelves with volumes which have neither readable nor marketable value. Some people think every book that arrives should be placed on the shelves of a library; with this view I entirely disagree. Libraries such as ours are not intended as receptacles for rubbish, neither do they, as so many seem to think, remain stationary in anyway. We have all to think of the future of the nation, of the people at large, and of the books themselves when establishing a library, and the responsibility attaching to the choice and elimination of books can never be too keenly realized. We neither want old and useless books, nor do we wish for valuable editions; which last we should tremble to see in the not over clean hands of some of our readers. It was not long before we discovered which books would be most popular, and here I have to record an astonishing fact, viz., that Darwin's *Descent of Man* and the *Origin of Species* were, as they still continue to be, amongst those in the greatest demand. Fiction, as usual, is first in the field of popularity—it could not be otherwise amongst our class of readers.

Here Mrs. Henry Wood, Miss Braddon, Harrison Ainsworth, Wilkie Collins, Rider Haggard, Marryat, Henty, Kingston, Dickens, Gaboriau, Dumas, Lever, and, oddly



enough, Swift and Fielding take the lead. I attribute the extensive reading of Miss Braddon entirely to the influence of those ghastly posters used in advertising her books. As to *Lady Audley's Secret* and *East Lynne*, we cannot have a supply equal to the demand, nor, to be candid, do we intend to encourage such reading, though, of course, a good deal of novel reading must be looked for just at first.

Bound volumes of *The Illustrated London News*, *Punch* and *The Graphic* afford many an hour's amusement to the less proficient among our readers, and in these days of board schools and inspectors it is astonishing to find how many have evaded the vigilant eyes of those gentlemen. After all, these volumes represent pictorially various epochs in our history and in that of other nations, and something may be got from the study of them. We are, in fact, so often asked for the volumes containing pictures of the Afghan, Zulu, Soudan and other wars with the dates of these conflicts, that I have thought of indexing war periods as well as novels to save time in searching through all the heavy volumes. Novels published in these papers are also much in request on account of the plentiful illustrations with which they are provided. Very funny demands are often made, and hopelessly ludicrous mistakes.

I think it would be a good thing if all librarians would keep a book of "Ridicula." "Please I want a Library," is a frequent form of request, and "Please I want an awful book, something dreadfully exciting." This latter demand is generally met to satisfaction by giving *Jail Birds* or *Jack Sheppard*, for both of which we have been offered money, "just cos I do like that, yer know—that just suit me." We do our best to discourage such sensational reading, but when it is a well-known fact that even among a class of people that should know better, "shilling shockers" sell much better than a good novel, what can we do?

Of course dozens of books are had out and returned immediately, chosen only by the title, which is often misleading. *Soap*, a romance by Constance MacEwen, is perhaps the best instance, and the blank feeling of a person receiving this, when he believes he is getting a book on "soap manufacture," will be readily understood. Of course this difficulty can be greatly obviated by cataloguing titles as fully as possible, but this cannot always be done for want of space, expense and many other reasons.

A difficult question often asked is "Who is the author of the Bible?" and "is it an interesting and amusing book?" The New Testament is often asked for in a shame-faced way, frequently with an apology, and when I write these facts I do not wish to represent our readers as utter heathen, which is far from being the case, but only to show their fear of being found out reading a book which chiefly treats of religious matter, as far as it is understood by them—the fear of mockery and sneers deters many who would really like to study the Bible, both authorized and revised editions. "Who is the author?" is so often asked that we soon found a catalogue comprising authors as well as titles was absolutely necessary. "Another copy," or "another edition" is also a frequent form of mistaken application, and we have been asked for "*Fairies' Tails.*"

Some persons will pore over dictionaries or study Whitaker fervently. I have often been vainly asked for "the Form at a Glance," and for bound volumes of that delectable paper "The Pink 'un," so that the prevailing idea of persons in the neighbourhood of a free library is, that everything they want will be found there, and so I think it should be, within reasonable limits.

Characters out of books by Ainsworth, Dickens, Lytton and Fielding are so often asked for, that a thorough knowledge of these authors is necessary. It is surprising what books are appreciated by the most unlikely readers. *Middlemarch* was returned by one man, who said it was a "real good book," and he wished he had it, of his own. Translations of the *Iliad* and *Odyssey* are much appreciated.

History is next to fiction in order of popularity. Latin and German books and the plays of Aristophanes are often taken out and returned at once, for our readers depend greatly, as I have already said, on the attractiveness of titles, with sometimes disastrous results. Travel, topography and geography are leading subjects. Guide books are a never failing source of delight. Biography and poetry are seldom asked for. After biography, sociology, political economy, law, medicine, science and natural history follow in order of popularity. *From Log Cabin to White House* is first and foremost as favourite in biography, whilst in poetry *Don Juan* is universally preferred. Dramatic works stand high, and Shakespeare, Sheridan, Goldsmith and Lytton run each other very close.



One reader told me with glee that he had read all "Macbeth" and "Hamlet" in one evening—rather a large dose of tragedy for one night! Theology is rarely asked for. Science is much in demand, owing to the various classes held in the Institute. Natural history is a favourite study, particularly that branch which treats of the rearing and culture of pigeons, they being the "fancy" most cultivated by the gentlemen of the East. The study of foreign languages, specially German and Spanish, and the study of mathematics, art and architecture is steadily increasing, in fact, the standard of reading is improving in a marked way.

We have noticed that newspaper paragraphs and booksellers' notices and reviews will create a demand among our readers for books therein mentioned, and plays dramatized from books always create a demand for the original work. We consider that we are about nine months behind the general public in our demand for books of the day. Many of our readers are most diffident, and seem afraid to ask for the book they want for fear of giving trouble, apologising most profusely should we not quite understand what is wanted; for efforts to be explicit on their part often end in hopelessly verbose confusion. The gratitude of readers who have been efficiently helped is boundless, and makes one sometimes ashamed of the inadequacy of the help rendered. It is impossible not to enter into the spirit of intelligent research, and to be able to render assistance to the public is one of the privileges of a librarian.

One of the arguments frequently used against us is that we have so much fiction and miscellaneous reading and so little study; this is to a certain extent true, but the real study of various subjects is day by day increasing, as I said before. After Mr. Mason's article in *The Library* I need not say much about fiction; but after all, miscellaneous reading, which I suppose includes fiction, opens the minds of readers and certainly widens their sympathies, by bringing before their notice the thoughts, troubles and difficulties of other people, which troubles, &c., are apt to be lost sight of in the grinding poverty and misery of their individual lives; surely if this is the only point gained in the argument it is something to start from.

We do not want to lose sight of the educational side of the question, which however, the very fact of *miscellaneous* reading must to a certain extent bring into notice; but surely recrea-



tion, if harmless, may be allowed to take first place in the reading of that class with whom we principally wish to deal, remembering always that they "have never fed of the dainties that are bred in a book" (Love's Labour Lost, iv., 2). Study comes in due time, and it seems to me that for the average reader it is best to go on the plan advocated by Carlyle in his lecture on the "Choice of Books," which is "Read the book you honestly feel a wish and curiosity to read." We cannot force the reader's inclination; by degrees he will find that "any good book that is wiser than himself will teach him something—a great many things directly and indirectly."

We have to deal largely with persons who want to be made to forget their misery, and the dull monotony of their humdrum lives, and this we do by inviting them to "come and take a choice of all our library and so beguile their sorrow." (Titus Andronicus, iv., 1).

After all it is no use to force study on the minds of those whose bodies are for the most part ill-nourished and ill-clothed, and whose one absorbing idea is how to provide the next meal and get a shelter for the night.

We must have a beginning to all movements, and that great results will not be seen by us is more than probable; but because we see no immediate outcome, is no reason why we should give up trying by means of free libraries to improve, by slow degrees, the condition of the masses.

We endeavour to work with the Technical and Board Schools, so as to make our free library "a continuation school for students," as Charles Dickens says, and we have succeeded to a very hopeful extent, as many of our students take to heart the words of Carlyle to the Edinburgh students—consciously or unconsciously as it may be—"After you have done with your classes the next thing is a collection of books which you proceed to study and read—a great library of good books." We are not "*great*" at present, but we try to be a "*good*" library as far as lies in our power.

Statistics I am purposely avoiding—the best as to returns of libraries are incomplete. There are a hundred and one things of which no correct record can be made. The use of papers, trade journals, directories, &c., evades all attempts at correct notification, and the number of admissions tells us very little, as one man may enter three or four times in the course of a day, and each entry will be counted as that of a different individual.

In connection with the library we have two lending branches: one for the benefit of boys in the Technical Schools, and the other for the use of the students of evening classes. Both are extremely limited but fairly successful.

There is great scope for a lending department, and until we have one our work is but half done. Often we have been offered fees for the loan of books, which, of course, under the present circumstances could not be accepted. Perhaps when the White-chapel Free Public Library is established the existing demands may be met.

We are endeavouring to make a local collection, with at present but little success.

Last but not least comes Sunday opening, which was from the first carried out most successfully by the chairman of the trustees, Sir Edmund Hay Currie. Sunday opening is not a question here of drawing people away from churches and places of worship. Too much stress cannot be laid on this point. The class of persons to be seen in the reading-room would be for the most part spending Sunday in aimlessly loafing about the streets, or worse still. The regular attendants at places of worship are not in the least affected by Sunday opening. The bulk of congregations is neither reduced by it, nor increased by the closing of such places.

We have proved that those who find their way into the library spend the time in reading, if not serious works or theological treatises, wholesome fiction, or looking at pictures in bound volumes of illustrated papers.

The crusade carried on against Sunday opening by persons chiefly of the well-to-do classes, does not tend to increase the respect of their humbler brethren for a religion which appears to aim at the suppression of the smallest amount of enjoyment attainable by them. Their feeling naturally is "The Sabbath was made for man, and *not* man for the Sabbath." The Christianity which blinks this fact is not likely to attract those whose compelling force must be the religion of love and not fear. Sunday opening is one of the surest ways of elevating the masses, as on Sunday more persons are free to benefit by such places than on any other day.

The word Free as applied to libraries comes in appropriately, as there are or should be no party politics—papers and books on all sides being supplied. Moreover there is no sectarianism, which last would be fatal to the interests of the library and its frequenters.

Needless to say that, without the valuable co-operative assistance of various ladies and gentlemen who have given their services on Sundays, the work could never have been adequately carried on ; it being a principle that none of the ordinary weekday staff should be employed on Sundays, with the exception of the librarians who now take alternate Sundays.

M. S. R. J.





## A Prince's School-Books.

THE following warrant from the Regent Morton for the settlement of an account for books purchased for James VI., at a time when that monarch was only ten years old, is taken by the kind permission of the Controller of H.M. Stationery Office, from the "Facsimiles of National MSS. of Scotland." As the editor of the "Facsimiles" remarks, the books are not those "that we should expect to find on the shelves of a young prince, but neither were his tutor or teachers men such as are now employed to instruct princes."

G. H. OVEREND.

### POUR LE ROY.

I Confessio Augustana cum apologia	...	...	...	9/-
I De abusu Linguæ græcæ	...	...	...	3/-
I De Veneficijs 8°	...	...	...	4/-
I Syntaxis artis mirabilis 16°	...	...	...	7/6
I Synonyma græca	...	...	...	13/-
I De Republica heluetiorum	...	...	...	9/-
I Salustius english	...	...	...	12/-
I Belgicæ diuisio 8°	...	...	...	6/-
I De imposturis iudæorum	...	...	...	3/-
I L. florus per Vinetum 4°	...	...	...	7/-
I Symphosij Aenigmata	...	...	...	1/-
I Dialogi Vnus francois Lat.	...	...	...	5/-
I Erasmi Lingua	...	...	...	4/-
I Rami prælectiones in Ciceronem...	...	...	...	22/-
I Lexicon græcolatinum 4°	...	...	...	48/-
I Sphæra Valerij 8°	...	...	...	2/-
I Chronicon Bohemiæ	...	...	...	35/-
I Carmina selecta	...	...	...	1/-
I Sigonius de iure prouinciarum	...	...	...	12/-
I Eiusdem Italia folio	...	...	...	30/-
I Confessio Heidelbergensis	...	...	...	5/-
I De origine dei missatici	...	...	...	3/-
I Calendarium Pauli Ebrej (?) 4°	...	...	...	12/-
I Loci communes Petri Martyris fol.	...	...	...	3 lb. <sup>1</sup>
I Theodorus presbiter contra hæreses	...	...	...	2/-
I Libro di mesurar con la vista	...	...	...	12/-

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<sup>1</sup> *Sic* in the print of the document. In the facsimile the letters appear to be *ll.*, but the Editor of the volume who had the original before him, is doubtless correct in his reading.

1	Art pour tyrer eaux	...	...	...	...	...	4/-
1	Martyr in libros regum	...	...	...	...	3 lb.	
1	Chronicon Melancthonis fol.	...	...	...	...	3 lb.	
1	Orthographia Manutij	...	...	...	...		35/-
2	Fabulæ Aesopi græcolat. 16°	...	...	...	...		12/-
							<hr/>
							24 lb. 18/6

Thesourar & zo<sup>r</sup> Deputtis ze sall ans<sup>r</sup> yir buikis to ye  
 Kingis maiestie And the prices y<sup>r</sup>of salbe thankfullie  
 allowit to zow in zo<sup>r</sup> comptis kepand yir p<sup>n</sup>tis for  
 zo<sup>r</sup> warrand. Subscriuit w<sup>t</sup> o<sup>r</sup> hand At Dalkeith the  
 xxv day of Julij a<sup>o</sup> 1576. JAMES REGENT.



## Chain Verses.

To J \* \*,

Demanding an Inscription in an "Omar Khayyam."

HASTE, Jack, to write your name in yonder book :  
And yet write not, for when you are anear

No need there is of pen and ink to cheer  
Our greeting. And yet write, for herein, look,  
There is upon this page a tempting nook

Where you shall hum a quatrain clear and dear  
To him who holds your gift in after year :—  
Write it, I swear you shall by hook or crook.

Nay, write it not, for what may prove to be  
Most perfect is most fittest. So put back  
Our Omar, *sans* inscription, on the shelf.

What need is ours of further poesy

When all our lifetime we've possession, Jack,  
Of one more perfect poem—— of yourself?

CHARLES SAYLE.



## THE LIBRARY CHRONICLE.

### Record of Bibliography and Library Literature.

Emilio Motta. *Bibliografia del Suicidio, Bellinzona, Tipografia e Litografia di C. Salvioni.* 1890, 8vo. pp. viii, 102.

With a due regard to the horror of his subject, Sig. Motta—or his publisher—has placed a quarter of an inch of black line at the head and foot of each of his pages. In his preface he refuses to claim for his work the importance of a true bibliography, designating it “un semplice saggio bibliografico,” a bibliographic essay, in which omissions may be more easily forgiven than in a pretentious volume. The arrangement is chronological and is divided into sections, at first of centuries, and then as we come nearer to our own times, into the constantly diminishing periods, 1800-50, 1850-75, 1875-85, 1885-9. The shortness of these later sections is amply justified by the great increase of the literature of suicide in recent years, an increase which, unhappily, only corresponds to the increased prevalence of suicide itself. For the sixteenth century, with which he takes his start, Sig. Motta only quotes four works, two of them containing lists of notable suicides, the fourth, the *Essays* of Montaigne, and the third, the *Novelle* of Bandello here included because in three or four of the tales the hero or heroine commits suicide from jealousy or despair! In the seventeenth century the most important entry is Donne’s *Biathanatos* “a declaration of that paradox or thesis that self-homicide is not so naturally a sin that it may never be otherwise,” (1644.) This was answered by *Pellicanidium, or the Christian Adviser against Self-Murder*. In the same century also, we have the beginning of a long series of German Academical dissertations on the history and ethics of suicide. These are continued right to the end of the eighteenth century, but towards its close are relieved by references to the *Lettres persanes* of Montesquieu, Rousseau’s *Nouvelle Héloïse*, Voltaire’s article on “Cato and Suicide” in the *Dictionnaire Philosophique*, Goethe’s *Werther* and the literature it provoked, and the *Vera Storia di due Amanti*, by Jacopo Ortis. In the present century the literature of suicide becomes chiefly statistical and scientific. The rapidity of its growth may be best shown by the following little table of the number of works which Signor Motta catalogues under each of his chronological sections:—

Before 1800	...	...	...	...	106
1800-50	...	...	...	...	121
1850-75	...	...	...	...	109
1875-85	...	...	...	...	140
1885-89	...	...	...	...	112

*Bibliographie Gastronomique.* Par Georges Vicaire, avec une préface de Paul Ginisty et des facsimiles. *Paris: chez P. Rouquette et fils*, 1890. 8vo, pp. xviii, coll. 971.

From a bibliography of the literature of suicide we turn to one on cookery, a much more portly volume, and on a much pleasanter subject. Since the days of Chaucer’s *Clerk of Oxenford*, students have ever been reputed a lean race, but though the student and the modern “collector” may unite in a preference for “twenty bookes clad in blak or red” above fiddles, psalteries, or fine clothes, on the point of cookery they appear

frequently to diverge. On this subject the ethics of the student are detestable, while a love of rare bindings, an appreciation of the points of a first edition, and a full perception of the joys and jealousies hidden behind the magic word *unique*, are very frequently accompanied by a great deal of gastronomical erudition. Hence it is that books on cookery have always held a high place in the esteem of collectors, who con lovingly the receipts of bygone *maîtres de cuisine* and wonder at the digestion of their ancestors. To all who ride this hobby M. Georges Vicaire's bibliography promises a rare treat, for in its two thousand five hundred entries the whole of the great French literature of the subject is most amply set forth, while the humbler contributions of our own and other less gastronomic lands receive a fair share of attention. Among English books the most notable omission is that of Sir Kenelm Digby's *Closet Opened*, but on the whole, thanks partly perhaps to Mr. Hazlitt's monograph on *Some old Cookery Books*, the titles of the chief sixteenth and seventeenth century English receipt books are set forth with a fulness and accuracy not usually found in the foreign treatment of our literature. Besides setting forth all titles in full we must not forget to add that in the case of the more remarkable works M. Vicaire adds very full and interesting notes. We may especially draw attention to his account of the *Viaudier de Guillaume Tirel dit Taillevent, premier queux du roi Charles V.* (written 1375, printed 1490), of *Le Menagier de Paris*, another fourteenth century composition, of the *Pâtissier François*, beloved of Mr. Andrew Lang, and one of the rarest and most charming of Elzeviers, and of Menon's *Cuisinière bourgeoise* (1746). Besides regular cookery books the bibliography includes many works which touch the fringes of the subject, such as the *Sermon ioyeux de la vie Saint ongnon*, and these lend fresh variety to the ample *menu*. As mentioned on the title, the book is illustrated by a few reproductions of old title pages and woodcuts, which seem to us the least admirable feature in the work.

### Library Notes and News.

*The Editor earnestly requests that librarians and others will send to him early and accurate information as to all local Library doings. The briefest record of facts and dates is all that is required.*

*In course of time "Library Notes and News" will become of the utmost value to the historian of the Free Library movement, and it is therefore of the highest importance that every paragraph should be vouched for by local knowledge.*

*Contributors should send a memorandum of their contributions to the Editor at the end of each quarter, and a remittance will be promptly forwarded.*

AYR.—Mr. Carnegie has offered to give £10,000 for the purpose of building a free public library at Ayr, provided that the town will agree to adopt the Free Libraries Act. The Town Council have intimated their approval of the adoption of the Act, and it is believed that Mr. Carnegie's offer will be accepted.

LEEDS.—The Leeds Private Vocal Society has recently been dissolved, and its collection of part-songs, glees, &c., has been presented to the Leeds Public Library.

LONDON.—The Church Association has received the present of a "Protestant" Library, of about 2,000 volumes.

LONDON: CAMBERWELL.—The Minet Free Library, in Knatchbull-road, Camberwell, the freehold site and building for which have been presented to the inhabitants by Mr. William Minet, was formally opened



on July 19th, by Sir Lyon Playfair, M.P. Mr. G. C. Whiteley (chairman of the joint committee), presided over the inaugural meeting, and in opening the proceedings gave a brief *résumé* of the free library movement in Camberwell, explaining that the library now about to be opened was so close to the boundaries of Lambeth and Camberwell, that it had been found necessary to obtain an Act of Parliament to enable a joint committee from the two parishes to undertake its management and control. He regretted the absence of Mr. Minet on this occasion, but he wished, in the name of the inhabitants, to thank him once and for all for his generous gift and the useful building which had been placed in their midst. Sir Lyon Playfair's speech on the occasion has been kindly contributed by him as a paper to *The Library*, and will be found on page 332.

LONDON : CHRIST CHURCH.—The reading room of this library, which is situate in Charles Street, Blackfriars Road, has been so largely used, that it has been found necessary to provide more accommodation, and another large reading room was opened in the building on July 24th. Mr. J. Shand presided at the meeting held for the purpose, and he congratulated the ratepayers upon the success which had attended their efforts, and upon the able and economic way in which the library had been managed.

LONDON : LEWISHAM.—The Free Libraries Acts have been adopted by the parish of Lewisham (including Forest Hill, Blackheath, and Sydenham) by 3,896 against 3,213. At a meeting of the Lewisham Vestry, on July 17th, to appoint commissioners for carrying out the Libraries Acts, it was stated, to the surprise of the members present, that Mr. Glynn, barrister, was of opinion that some of the ratepayers had voted for the rate being restricted to a halfpenny, and there not being a clear majority without them, the rate could not exceed  $\frac{1}{2}$ d.

LONDON : NEWINGTON.—At the meeting of the Newington Vestry, on July 16th, the Rev. G. T. Palmer, rector, in the chair, Mr. Gogay moved "that this vestry considers the time opportune for the adoption of the Free Libraries Acts, and that the ratepayers be given the opportunity of expressing their desires by a poll at an early date." Mr. Pottinger seconded the motion, which was adopted with two dissentients, and it was understood that the poll would be taken in October.

LONDON : PADDINGTON.—A meeting in aid of the funds of the Paddington Free Library was held on July 11th, at 83, Lancaster Gate. In the absence of the Earl of Meath, Mr. F. D. Mocatta took the chair. Mr. Frank Moss (the hon. secretary) briefly sketched the work of the library from its inception some three years ago. Every year the subscriptions and donations fell far short of the expenditure, and the deficit had to be made up from the purses of the immediate supporters, who were comparatively few in number. The average daily attendance during the past year had been 200. Mr. Mocatta dwelt on the benefits free libraries conferred upon the public at large, and on the apathy that had been shown hitherto regarding the establishment of libraries, London, strangely enough, being the last place to wake up to the advantages of such institutions. On the motion of the Rev. Dr. H. Adler, a resolution pledging the meeting to support the library was carried unanimously.

LONDON : PEOPLES' PALACE.—The committee of the Peoples' Palace Library, of which Mr. Walter Besant is chairman, report that the general class of reading has greatly improved. The educational value of the Peoples' Palace is further indicated by the fact that 35,558 volumes have been issued in the library in the last half-year. The number taken out on Sunday, 5,183, is curiously near the proper proportion if the numbers



were allotted equally to each day in the seven, but it has to be borne in mind that Sunday is really only a half-day at the library, which is only open then from 3 to 10 p.m. The numbers attending the library and reading room on Sunday, 27,228, are less than a seventh of the total number, which is 204,649. Of 1,532 volumes presented to the library in the half-year, 1,000 have been given by Mr. Passmore Edwards. The Wilkie Collins Library has also been presented to the institution.

LONDON : POPLAR.—Mr. W. M. Bullivant has promised, in case the ratepayers of Poplar adopt the Public Libraries Acts, to give £1000 to the building fund.

NEW ZEALAND.—The Wanganui Public Library is supported by the subscriptions of an unlimited number of subscribers, together with the proceeds from entertainments, lectures, &c. It consists of two branches, lending and reference, and is governed by a directory of twelve, elected annually by the subscribers. There is a free reading room, also one reserved for the use of subscribers and visitors from outside the district. The books to be read in the building are free to all. The advantages possessed by subscribers are : the use of a private reading room, and the right to take books to their homes. The population of Wanganui is about five thousand.

SALFORD.—Miss Brotherton has given to the Salford Free Library, a series of forty-eight volumes of cuttings and scraps, properly indexed, formed by the late Mr. Joseph Brotherton, M.P., for the borough, and one of the pioneers in the promotion of public free libraries.

### Library Catalogues.

Boston. Spain Lane Unitarian Chapel Library Society, Boston. Rules and catalogue of books in the Library. Instituted 1889. pp. 31.

This library contains about 1,200 volumes—a list of which is given arranged sometimes under the author and sometimes under the title of the work, but without system, evidently the work of a novice.

Cardiff Free Library. Index Catalogue of books in the Lending Department (containing all books received to January 31st, 1890). Compiled by John Ballinger, Chief Librarian. 1890. Crown 4to, pp. 234.

The readers of Cardiff Free Library are to be congratulated in possessing a capital guide to their very considerable collection of books. The catalogue is compiled on the dictionary plan, and, as the librarian says in his preface, while he has tried “to avoid setting traps wherewith to catch the unwary and to induce them to borrow books they do not want,” he has also kept steadily in view “the desirability of producing a reliable guide,” so that they may find such books as they desire. Prefixed to the catalogue is an index to the contents of volumes of miscellaneous essays. This is most valuable, and renders the analysis of the various volumes in the catalogue of far more than ordinary use. While we congratulate Mr. Ballinger on the careful manner in which he has compiled the catalogue, we feel bound to protest against the smallness of the type, the wretched quality of the paper, the carelessness of the presswork, and last, but by no means least, that most detestable custom of interlarding the text of the book with advertisements. As this is one of the worst examples of this evil we have met with, special attention must be drawn to it. We have the title, *verso* advertisement, list of officers, *verso* advertisement, list of newspapers, *verso* advertisement, and so on for other eleven leaves, which take us well through the index to the essays. We thought we had come to the end of

the advertisements, but, after turning three leaves, we are again pulled up by a leaf of advertisements, and at the end a short appendix of three pages is separated from the catalogue by a leaf of advertisements, while on the fourth page of the appendix comes another advertisement. In the index they seriously interfere with its use, at the end they cause the appendix to be overlooked altogether. We hope the example will not be followed by other libraries.

**Hammersmith.** Catalogue of Books in the Lending Department of the Public Library, Ravenscourt Park. Compiled by Samuel Martin....1890. Small 8vo, pp. xxiv., 1,264.

This catalogue of 6,870 volumes is well compiled on the dictionary system, and is set in full measure, in good type, with authors' surnames and first words in clarendon, and subject-line heading in large capitals. It contains very few mis-prints, but the compositors have too freely used capitals.

**Nottingham.** Free Public Libraries. The Fourth Supplementary Catalogue, with an Appendix, of Books in the Central Lending Library, South Sherwood Street, Nottingham.....1889. Royal 8vo., pp. 34. Price 2d.

This supplement is carefully compiled and well printed. Contents of miscellaneous works, and books with ambiguous titles, are well set out. The whole of the collection of music is here printed in a manner which will be useful to librarians who contemplate the formation, or augmentation of similar collections. There is an engraving of the library on the wrapper.

## **Abstracts of Library Reports.**

FOR PERIOD COVERED BY REPORT, SEE TABLES.

In future we shall give the statistical information obtained from reports in tabular form (see page 364), thus greatly facilitating reference and comparison. Under the above heading we propose to give brief extracts from the reports, with comments on the more important matters dealt with therein.

**BATTERSEA :** L. INKSTER, Librarian.

The Central Library has been completed and opened, and the erection of the Lurline Gardens' Branch has been commenced.

**BIRMINGHAM :** J. D. MULLINS, Librarian.

Three additional branch libraries have been sanctioned. A new part—Parliamentary-Shakespeare—of the Reference Library Catalogue has been issued. Small open reference libraries have been established at the branches and are of great use. The Shakespeare Memorial Library contains 8,690 volumes. The library does not seem to have any Indian editions of Shakespeare on its shelves. Mr. F. J. Comber, a member of the staff, died on May 8th, 1889. With the report is issued a "List of Duplicate Books available for Exchange."

**BLACKBURN :** R. ASHTON, Librarian.

Scant respect to the memory of the late librarian is displayed in the bald reference to his death. The revision of the lending department catalogue is now being pushed forward. Many worn-out "sets of books" have been renewed. Fines produced £6 7s. 7d., and sale of catalogues, 3s.

**BOOTLE-CUM-LINACRE :** J. J. OGLE, Librarian.

The somewhat large percentage of fiction issued is accounted for by the number of seafaring men who, when in port, make use of the privilege



of borrowing books of a recreative character for reading in the news room. A special room has been set apart for students, of whom there are seventeen on the register. A second supplementary catalogue was issued in November. Seven addresses have been given in the museum. Eighteen free lectures have been delivered.

CAMBRIDGE : J. PINK, Librarian.

The Committee wish to meet the educational wants of all classes. The librarian, in October last, addressed a circular to the heads of public and private schools in the borough, calling attention "to the many valuable works of reference in the library," and asking for suggestions or lists of books that would be of service either to the masters or their senior scholars. As a result, a number of educational works have been bought by the Committee. Two further courses of lectures and classes were given in connection with the Cambridge University Extension, and the Committee provided duplicate copies of all the text-books required.

CARDIFF : J. BALLINGER, Librarian.

The operation of the Technical Instruction Act (52 & 53 Vic., c. 76) will, it is hoped, relieve the Committee from the necessity of maintaining the science and art schools out of the public library rate. The Local Government Board has sanctioned a loan of £10,000 for extension. New catalogue of lending library in hand. The establishment of the boys' section three years ago has "completely stamped out the reading of 'penny dreadfuls' amongst the boys of several schools in the town, and the teachers state that boys who borrow from the free library become more intelligent and teachable." The local collection is being arranged. On February 9th a branch reading room was opened at Cathays, and on March 1st, another at Roath. Information added about the museum and science and art schools.

CLAPHAM : J. R. WELCH, Librarian.

Report of opening ceremony with Sir John Lubbock's speech.

CLERKENWELL (LONDON) : J. D. BROWN, Librarian.

The elevation of the new building is given as a frontispiece. The attendance of the Commissioners is recorded. On March 30th, the lending library was opened. The 8,000 volumes were purchased, catalogued, and prepared for issue in the space of less than three months by the librarian and his staff. The Skinners' Company granted a site in Skinner Street for a new building (*Library*, I., p. 177). The design of Messrs. Karslake and Mortimer was accepted (*Ibid.*, p. 238). The cost is estimated at £6,500. Messrs. McCormick & Sons are the contractors (*Ibid.*, II., p. 119). There are three female assistants.

CROYDON : R. C. CHAPMAN, Librarian.

Scheme of Committee to provide a central and five branch libraries, to render available for evening reading rooms, with small lending libraries in connection therewith, many of the Board Schools throughout the borough. Also a branch at Shirley—the residents finding premises and an attendant. Mr. Wm. Hall, the first librarian, died Dec. 7th, 1889. Non-burgesses can obtain a reader's ticket under a guarantee from a burgess, or upon deposit of 10s.

EALING : T. BONNER, Librarian.

A new catalogue in hand. Fresh method of entering books. Donations amount to £42 4s. The Cambridge University Press, Church of England Book Society, Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge, and Religious Tract Society, have made grants of books. A portrait of Mr. John Allen Brown (Chairman, 1883-9), has been placed in reference library.



HANDSWORTH : J. W. ROBERTS, Librarian.

New catalogue issued. Crowded audiences at free lectures. Application to Local Government Board for sanction to a loan of £2,000 for proposed extensions.

HANLEY : A. J. MILWARD, Librarian.

A considerable portion of the report is devoted to the Museum, and Gilchrist People's Lectures, and the Science Classes.

HEREFORD : J. COCKCROFT, Librarian.

The new catalogue is nearly ready. The analysis of issues for the last few years reveals some curious facts. In 1887-8, of Theology, Morals &c., 304 volumes were issued ; but in 1889-90, only 46 ; in 1887-8, of Natural History 452 volumes were issued, but in 1889-90, of *National (sic)* History only 72. In 1887-8, of Dictionaries, Encyclopædias, &c., no book was issued, but in 1889-90, 1,666 volumes were issued. Law and Politics shew a decrease from 32 to 1, and Commerce, Statistics, &c., a decrease from 19 to nil.

KENSINGTON : HERBERT JONES, Librarian.

This covers a period of more than sixteen months. The Acts were adopted in June, 1887—the rate being limited to ½d. in the £. On November 23rd, the Commissioners formally accepted the offer by Mr. Jas. Heywood, of the Notting Hill Library, which he had established and maintained at his own cost. This library was re-opened January 2nd, 1888. Two adjacent houses in Ladbroke and Lancaster Roads were acquired, and fitted up at a cost of £4,150. The Clareville Grove Branch was opened November 1st, 1888. The Vestry Hall, in High Street, Kensington, was secured as the central library.

LEICESTER : C. V. KIRKBY, Librarian.

Numbers of works of the best musical composers have been added. Table III. answers the question : "What do women read?" and it shews that out of an issue of 1,622 only 46 vols. are classed as fiction !

LIVERPOOL : P. COWELL, Librarian.

In memoriam tribute to Sir J. A. Picton. New branch at Kensington. List of lectures given. 116,912 persons attended the five Branch Evening Reading Rooms. Much interesting information given respecting the museum and art gallery.

PRESTON : W. S. BRAMWELL, Librarian.

The Harris Free Public Library and Museum will soon be handed over to the Corporation. The museum is well patronised. In the financial statement no receipts from rates appear. £414 2s. 1d. was drawn from the reserve fund.

PUTNEY : C. F. TWENEY, Librarian.

Appeal for more help. All departments are hampered for want of space. Progress greater than anticipated.

RICHMOND (SURREY) : F. PACY, Librarian.

Open reference library established in November. Monthly Shilling Book Fund amounted to £25 2s. Voluntary rate realised £141 9s. 1d. Collection of Theological works presented in memory of the late Rev. G. S. Ingram, and placed in special cases in the reference library. Mr. T. Skewes-Fox has given a large and interesting collection of shells and glass cases for same.

SALFORD : J. PLANT, Librarian.

Sunday opening has been successful. New reference library catalogue in hand, also new catalogue for the Pendleton Branch Lending Library. Six free lectures given during the winter. The usual information given about the museum and picture galleries.

TWICKENHAM : E. MAYNARD, Librarian.

The *Encyclopædia Britannica* has been purchased by voluntary contributions. The "Popean<sup>1</sup> Collection" contains nearly all the collective editions of Pope, and the books illustrating the poet and his times.

TYNEMOUTH : G. TIDEY, Librarian.

No means of ascertaining number of attendances, but the step at the entrance has had to be renewed again ! More accommodation wanted. Museum still closed. Branch News Room opened on 21st November in a suitable room at the Aquarium.

WEDNESBURY: T. STANLEY, Librarian.

Closed four weeks for cleaning, painting, ventilating, and the installation of a more efficient system of gas-lighting. Floral and Horticultural Society has given £10. Information about the science and art classes forms an appendix.

WESTMINSTER : H. E. POOLE, Librarian.

All the adjacent parishes, except St. George's, Hanover Square<sup>2</sup> have followed the example of Westminster, and have adopted the Public Libraries Acts. A list of the parochial institutions, including the libraries, is printed at the back of the demand notes for rates. This is a capital idea. Too rarely does the unfortunate ratepayer know what he gets for his money. The negotiations for acquiring the freehold site for the new library buildings have been completed.

WIGAN : H. T. FOLKARD, Librarian.

Full lists of donations and principal additions to reference library are given. The new Local Act enables the corporation to provide additional funds by levying a 2d. rate. Plans for enlargement and alteration are under consideration. Letter D of the catalogue of the reference library has been printed, thus completing the first volume. New catalogue of the lending department has been issued.

### Library Association Record.

The members are to be congratulated that the long delayed Dublin and Plymouth publications are issued at last. The mere fact that they are "out" is so gratifying we feel sure no one will now trouble to inquire why they were not issued sooner, and it would be superfluous to enlarge on the labours of the devoted editor, who until recently gave so freely of his time and energy to the work of the Association. Mr. Thomas's labours are well known and appreciated, but it is not generally known that the Association is indebted to Mr. J. P. Edmond for passing the later portions of these volumes through the press with most praiseworthy rapidity, and to Mr. W. May, of Birkenhead, for the admirable index.

We are delighted to hear that our Annual Meeting will this year also be graced by distinguished American visitors. Having heard that Mr. Justin Winsor and his family were travelling in England, Mr. MacAlister, on behalf of the Council, invited them to come to Reading, and Mr. Winsor has cordially accepted the invitation. Many who made his acquaintance in 1877 will be delighted to renew the acquaintance, but, alas ! how many he will miss ! *Eheu fugaces.*

### Correspondence.

A LIBRARY BUREAU.

SIR,—I am surprised at there not having been more response to this suggestion. A centre of information where one might see the new edition of Cutter's Rules, for example, or the latest improvement in library appliances, would, I venture to think, be extremely serviceable. No

<sup>1</sup> What an uncouth word ! Why not "Pope Collection" ?

<sup>2</sup> The Acts have been adopted here (June 25th, 1890), since the issue of this report.



doubt, also, the proposed catalogue slips would be a great convenience. I presume Mr. Timmins has in his mind something like what I find inserted in the Reports of the Bureau of Ethnology (Smithsonian Institution). Perhaps some of your readers would inform us how far the method is carried out in the United States.

STUDENT.

DEAR SIR,—The proposal to establish a "Library Bureau" in London on lines similar to those laid down in Mr. MacAlister's letter, should, I think, meet with the support of the Library Association, now that the annual subscription has been increased. There are many kinds of work which might be more economically done at a central bureau. Personally I do not think title slips of all new books should be prepared at such a bureau, as hardly any two librarians would agree as to the form in which they should be drawn up. It would be different with such matters as the set-out contents of many books as appear in most libraries. I have often wondered at the time and energy wasted by librarians independently setting out the contents of, say, *Archæologia*, or the *Journals of the Agricultural Society*, when such matters might be supplied at slight cost from a central office for incorporation with the printer's copy for the local catalogue, or for pasting into a "contents" album available for any searcher's use. A central office, furnished with a good set of "Bibliographical Tools," could also, for a small fee, furnish extracts to country members working without such appliances as a Brunet or a Quérard, or a complete set of dictionaries of pseudonyms, &c. It is evident from the constitution of the Library Association, that the founders foresaw the use of such a central library of technical works, and now surely is the time to begin its formation. There is an impression abroad that only the London librarians would benefit by a bureau in London. Let it be shown clearly that references and searches can be made for the country members by the bureau clerk, and that co-operative labour-saving work can be accomplished, and I venture to predict a melting away of the apathy at present existing in the Association on the subject of the library bureau.

Yours faithfully,

JOHN J. OGLE.

*Bootle Free Library, June 27th, 1890.*

#### LIBRARY STATISTICS.

SIR,—I should be glad to have the opportunity of saying how much I agree with the interesting article on this subject in the June number. In examining the Annual Reports of various libraries, it has, I must confess, struck me again and again that in statistics, as in so many other things, a thing to be avoided is too much ambition. Better far have accurate totals than elaborate divisions.

I hope those actually engaged in the administration of libraries will see their way to represent to their committees that much of what is at present printed is simply waste of money.

With reference to statistics of visits, the hourly count described would certainly be very fallacious. I should, however, venture to disagree with what is said as to turn-stiles. These have been in use at South Kensington for a number of years and I apprehend would serve very usefully to indicate gradual movements in the attendance. They have been recently adopted at the National Gallery. They are in use at the library of the Peoples' Palace, and if my memory serves me right the only other library where I have seen them in use is the National Library at Paris.

I trust that by the ventilation of details as to the actual practice followed at various places, foundations may be laid for improving the present state of confusion. With common standards of reference the misleading comparisons between the results achieved at different libraries need no longer be indulged in.♥

OWEN ROE.



# STATISTICAL ABSTRACT OF LIBRARY REPORTS.

NOTE: Under "Year ending," the first figure refers to the month, the second to the year: e.g., "5-90" = May, 1890. When no figure appears under a heading it means that the required information cannot be obtained from the report.

Name.	Year ending	Number of Volumes in Stock.				Volumes Issued.				Percentage of Fiction Issued.		No. of Borrowers.	Produce of Rate.	Total Income.
		Reference Library.	Lending Library.	Branches.	Grand Total of Vols.	Reference Library.	Lending Library.	Branches.	Lending Library.	Branches.				
Battersea	5-90	7,046	10,252	5,543	22,841	3,059	28,293	89,473	85	80	85	8,075	£2,650	£2,878
Birmingham	12-89	102,352	25,607	34,242	162,201	387,782	276,433	254,467	68	63	68	19,742	£9,590	£10,310
Blackburn	2-90	18,595	18,218	...	36,813	29,252	61,817	...	...	...	...	14,739	...	...
Boole	3-90	1,713	5,002	...	6,715	6,689	43,354	...	...	87	...	...	£1,441	£1,486
Cambridge	6-89	9,904	21,235	4,849	35,988	10,437	77,635	16,821	59	69	59	3,129	£2,515 <sup>2</sup>	£903
Cardiff	10-89	13,324	17,245	...	30,569	13,217	129,812	...	...	77	...	5,761	£1,350	£4,102
Clapham	10-89	...	4,800	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	£1,522	£1,522
Clerkenwell	12-89	1,128	8,676	...	9,804	...	46,905	...	...	70	...	2,322	£1,300	£2,240
Croydon	3-90	...	5,582	...	5,582	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	£2,100	£2,512
Ealing	3-90	850	6,929	...	7,779	784	112,553	...	...	74	...	4,410	£523	£673
Handsworth	3-90	1,337	9,128	97	10,562	2,825	55,074	...	...	69	...	1,768	£470	£651
Hanley	4-90	2,109	5,765	...	7,874	5,632	65,797	...	...	85	...	1,881	£690	£1,101
Hereford	3-90	3,521	9,697	...	13,218	...	30,829	...	...	82	...	1,059	£409	£547
Kensington	13-89	...	...	13,941	13,941	11,823	...	49,812	81	...	81	8,757	£3,270	£3,296
Leicester	4-90	10,051	15,833	8,675	34,559	29,073	145,401	97,118	52	60	52	8,513	£1,618	£1,966
Liverpool	12-89	94,749	...	47,362	142,111	144,649 <sup>3</sup>	...	385,326	76	...	76	...	...	...
Preston	12-89	...	16,315	...	16,315	...	96,082	...	...	66	...	15,008 <sup>1</sup>	...	...
Putney	4-90	1,364	3,387	...	4,751	1,435	40,009	...	...	68	...	1,581	£552	£857
Richmond, Sry.	3-90	7,542	9,050	...	16,592	7,588	93,472	...	...	73	...	2,985	£669	£1,010
Salford	10-89	45,168	13,207	30,135	88,510	48,504	26,949	246,948	49	59	49	7,269	...	...
Tewkesham	3-90	1,701	6,550	...	8,251	2,756	50,531	...	...	...	...	1,826	£330	£399
Tynemouth	12-89	4,195	21,971	...	( <sup>5</sup> )	14,457	120,033	1887	...	...	...	4,126	£500	£764
Wednesbury	3-89	1,766	7,191	...	8,957	5,976	70,696	...	...	52	...	...	£231	£555
Westminster	3-90	...	19,396	2,951	22,347	64,531	73,453	25,374	43	67	43	3,883	£1,530	£1,727

Editorial Communications and Books for Review should be addressed to the Editor, 20, Hanover Square, W.—Advertisements and Letters on Business to the Publisher, 62, Paternoster Row, E.C.

<sup>1</sup> Covering a period of 16 months. <sup>2</sup> Includes Fees and Grants of Science and Art Schools. <sup>3</sup> See also *Report*, p. 7. <sup>4</sup> Registered Readers since opening; active probably 4,000. <sup>5</sup> On p. 4 of the *Report*, total number is given 26,377, on p. 8, 26,166.

Address delivered at the Thirteenth Annual Meeting of  
the Library Association at Reading,

By THE PRESIDENT, E. MAUNDE THOMPSON, D.C.L., LL.D.

EVERY successive president of a society such as the Library Association of the United Kingdom must be conscious of the increasing difficulty of infusing an interest and practical usefulness into his opening address. The Association is now in its thirteenth year, and much of the advice, illustrated by details of personal experience, which former Presidents have embodied in their addresses—most suitable at the time and assuredly most acceptable to young beginners in a profession then new to so many—would now be entirely out of place. Certain divergent opinions on library management, on the systems of cataloguing, on the selection of books, and so forth, must always engage the lively interest of all connected with the librarian's profession, and each one must necessarily have his own views and by experience decide which is the proper course for him to follow. But such questions can only be decided by time and experience—no *ex cathedrâ* announcement can settle them; and I prefer to leave their discussion to you who bring together in yourselves, on such occasions as the present meeting, far wider and more varied experience of practical difficulties to be overcome, than can be within the survey of any one person.

Let my first words to you, as members of this Association, be words of congratulation upon the position which we now hold, and upon the success which the Free Library movement, as it is called—the intelligent recognition of one of the chief requisites of modern civilized life, as I would venture to term it—which is now positively ensured.

During the past session another Act of Parliament to facilitate the adoption of the library rate in our towns and villages has been passed under the quiet but sure guidance of Sir John Lubbock. To Sir John Lubbock the Association, and all who wish well to education—the kindly self-education which follows the sometimes ungrateful instruction of the schoolmaster, the pleasant education which each man chooses for his own improvement among the thousand delightful paths of literature—to him, I say, we owe a lasting debt of gratitude. To carry in triumph through all kinds of obstacle and obstruction some

great measure—some political reform—some wonderful financial scheme—attracts the gaze of the world. But to us, the quiet people, who care not for Whig nor Tory, who are content to be Britons without being politicians, the passing of such a measure as the new Libraries Act means much and has a deep significance. I hope that before this meeting closes we may hear the valuable opinions of members of the Association upon Library legislation, which it is proposed to discuss.

But to return to the actual progress of the Free Library movement the success of which, I have just said, is ensured. If we look back to the year 1850 and compare with it the year 1890, we have no reason for complaint. The adoption of the Libraries Act was at first, as we are aware, slow—perhaps discouragingly slow; although I for one would not admit such a disparaging epithet. It is one of the characteristics of our race to be particularly slow in adopting new ideas. Call it conservatism or what you will, I venture to consider this characteristic or quality a good one, and one which results in the sure adoption of what is best, and in the working-out of that best to the best end. For something like two hundred towns in the United Kingdom to have adopted the Act in the course of forty years may not appear a great success, but it is a success notwithstanding—for we must not merely regard the result as a simple arithmetical sum of so many adhesions in a year. Those who will take the trouble to go into statistics will find that the increase has been one not of simple addition but of arithmetical progression; and so it must continue. For every ten libraries added this year, there will be twenty in the next, and so on, until the demand is satisfied. I repeat, the success of the movement is ensured. Prejudices, no doubt, still exist and will have to be overcome; class interests will still imagine themselves threatened, and will have to be taught to take a more enlightened view of things; well-intentioned people will still quote the dictum that “a little learning is a dangerous thing,” and will need to be convinced that the free library does not mean to stop short at “a little learning.” All such obstacles give way to courage. Let us look back. If we could erase the history of the early years which succeeded the passing of the Libraries Act of 1850, and simply see things as they now exist, would any one in this room believe that the great town of Birmingham with its great library—a library which has even passed into Henry Bradshaw’s “antiquarian stage”—had once



rejected the adoption of the Act? Let it not be thought that I am casting stones at Birmingham; I have too much respect for the expression of free opinion to do so. It did but exercise its right of choice, and was influenced by that national characteristic to which I have referred. But what Birmingham did then, would Birmingham do now? The question requires no answer, and the parable needs no moral.

The geographical aspect of the Free Libraries movement is interesting and suggestive. Taking the map of England, it appears that the great centre of the movement lies in the central counties. Draw a line across the country extending from Southern Lancashire and Yorkshire on the north, to Warwickshire and Northamptonshire on the south, and you will find that you can place the majority of English towns which are blessed in the possession of free libraries within the borders of that zone. The cause is not far to seek, for within these limits lie the great labouring towns of the kingdom; and yet, although there are great cities among them, none of them has grown to a disproportionate size. It would seem, then, that the adoption of such means of self-improvement as the Libraries Act is most readily assured in places where men's wits are most sharpened by the competition of life, and where the population, though numerous, has not grown to the point when unity of action and unity of interest is distracted. Like the ripples which run over the face of the water from the centre where the stone has been cast in, the free libraries of the rest of England lie jotted sparsely on the face of the map around the centre which has been defined. And until the midland counties have satisfied their requirements by adding library to library and providing for their ever-growing towns, that centre will still remain, gradually to extend, you may be sure, and to incorporate the surrounding districts within its borders.

But latterly there have been indications of the rise of another centre, which, if it even extends to its own immediate circumference, will give an enormous impetus to the universal adoption of the Libraries Act. I refer to the metropolis. On another occasion I have noticed the extreme sluggishness which has marked the progress of libraries in London. The enormous population, subject to constant shifting and changing; the way of private life, generally spent far away from the place of business; the distractions of all kinds; the multitude of amusements; the endless exactions of society—all these tend to make

the Londoner feel that he is only a unit, that his city is not his home; that his real home lies in that favourite spot in the country to which he fondly hopes that he may one day retire; that he cares naught for his neighbour, and that his neighbour cares naught for him. As for libraries, there were the British Museum and the Guildhall—and what more was wanted? This *far-niente* paradise has passed away. Without going into the causes, it is enough to state the fact that free libraries are springing into existence in every quarter of the metropolis, and are also making way in the suburbs.

Let such facts as these be our consolation. The time has happily passed when we winced to have disagreeable statistics cast in our faces; when our candid friends were never tired of telling us how far superior to our benighted land were even small countries of Europe in their enlightened views as to libraries and general education. Self-depreciation is a useful medicine—but a man must be in a bad way when he is always taking medicine, and particularly when the cause for it has been removed. I think we have taken enough; and I do not mind confessing that, as far as we here are concerned, I cease to care for such statistics, and despise comparisons, which are proverbially odious.

The Free Library movement, then, may be considered as settled on a firm foundation, with every prospect of full development in the course of time. What the libraries that are called into being by its action will become, how they will develop, in what particular class of literature they will be strong, in what particular class they will be weak, must depend in great measure upon outside influences, but still more, I think, upon the capacity of those to whom they are entrusted. The period of foundation, the special requirements of readers, local influences, even local prejudices, will shape the form and regulate the growth of the library; but all those influences will be, to no inconsiderable extent, under the control of the librarian—and if he uses that control judiciously, and still more, if he has clear ideas and a sufficient knowledge, and knows how to apply that knowledge for the working out of his ideas, the future of the library will be safe in his keeping. *Beati possidentes*. The librarian must be the master of the situation; if he is not, let him abdicate.

I am almost ashamed to refer again to that trite observation, which now seems so far behind us that it sounds like a dictum of the middle ages—the observation of a very learned man re-



specting the perdition of the librarian who reads. Now I venture to think that in these busy days, when everything seems to be working at full pressure, the special danger which besets the librarian is that of lapsing into a mere machine. You, whose chief duty it is to supply the wants of others, to be at the beck and call of everyone who wants help in your libraries, know how almost impossible it is to find leisure to learn something of the insides of your books as well as of the outsides. And yet, if you do *not* read, you *will* inevitably be lost. You will become mere clerks, mere machines. It is not indeed given to everyone to become a good bibliographer. We know one or two gifted men with whom bibliography is almost an instinct, whose wonderful memory enables them to retain all that they read, and who seem to have the faculty of gathering the contents and estimating the value of a book at a glance. Such men may be called born librarians—but they are rare. Most of us must be content to forget half that we read, and be thankful that we retain the rest. We inferior mortals must not attempt too much, or we may indeed find perdition; we may become the bookworms whom the author of our dictum had in view, neglecting our duties to those outside, and devouring the food which we ought to provide for them. Better, far, to be clerical machines. With all the natural wish to be thorough, we must be content to have merely a superficial knowledge of most things, enough to point the road to others which we cannot follow ourselves. But to prevent that mental degeneration to which I have referred, everyone of us should have some special literary quest of his own—whether it be the elucidation of some great writer of the past, the solution of some literary or historical difficulty, the investigation of local biography, or history, or archæology—it matters not what—but let it be something which we can put on and put off at any time, which fits the mind as the easy coat fits the limbs, and which becomes so familiar that the thread of reasoning can be always resumed without effort. With such a pursuit for our leisure hours we shall not feel so much the wear and tear of the mechanical part of our daily occupations; the mind will not fret to drink promiscuously of the whole stream of knowledge which lies so temptingly before us; and we shall be accumulating the accurate bibliographical knowledge, at least in some one branch of literature, which necessarily follows careful investigation of a subject.

No doubt most of those whom I am now addressing have often



compared in their minds the libraries founded in our own time with those of the middle ages, and of even earlier date, and it must often have occurred to you to try to imagine how our posterity will regard our work. In regard to the former comparison, the libraries of our day can never perish in the way that mediæval and ancient libraries could perish. A fire, or tempest, or hostile invasion in former days might destroy a whole literature. Who can tell what masterpieces of classical learning expired, for example, with the library of Alexandria? The invention of printing has put such danger of wholesale destruction beyond the reach of fate. It is true that even printed books become scarce, and that whole editions have disappeared, save perchance a single copy. But such failures in survival are rare indeed. A library of printed books can never perish as a whole; it may disappear in the flames, but it will rise again from the ashes. If the *littera scripta* was supposed to endure, what are we to say of the *littera impressa*?

But there is the other side of the picture. Do not even librarians sometimes feel that the printing-press perpetuates much that would probably have done more good, nay, less harm, to mankind, by being confined to a unique copy in the author's autograph? And if that autograph should chance to perish, would you or I grudge that author the credit he might claim as the parent of a great work which might have astonished the world of letters, and the pleasure of living on that credit happily ever afterwards? And let me ask you, as librarians, have none of you felt a certain indescribable satisfaction, or at all events relief, on reading of the total destruction of the first edition of some work in the press before it has issued thence into the publisher's hands? But someone perhaps will say, "True, there is plenty of rubbish printed, but people need not read it." To which I reply, "But people do read rubbish; and worse than that, you and I have to keep it." It is really a somewhat melancholy experience to wander through the long galleries of a great library on which the Legislature has imposed the duty, under the Copyright Act, of taking charge of the literature of the day, and to mark lying on the shelves the tons of printed matter which, after its little day has passed, is never touched, and perhaps never will be touched even once in a generation.

Let us now for a moment consider what sort of material is being gathered together in the new libraries of the present day. In the first place the library of to-day has to take in and house

a class of literature with which our forefathers were very little troubled—the daily literature of newspapers. It does not require a very long life to remember the time when the penny paper did not exist—when newspapers were so few as to be really nearer the period of the old news-letter of two hundred years ago, which was despatched into the country to be handed round from house to house until it was literally worn out—nearer to that period than to the period of a few years ago when the penny press sprang into existence. Now, our descendants will assuredly see in the newspaper-press of to-day, in its multifarious forms, a reflection of the daily history of the country. They will see much that is good, and they will also see much that is bad. But you, as librarians, will not have much power of exercising a choice in what you will transmit of this class of literature to posterity. You will feel it your first duty to preserve your local newspapers, whatever you may do with outsiders—but good or bad you must send down your daily literature in bulk. We are not here called upon to discuss the merits or demerits of the daily press; but those who regard it from the literary point of view will certainly find that it has had a great influence upon the vocabulary of our language. “Newspaper English” is a not uncommon expression, and it is a significant term. From causes which are not far to seek, phrases are turned round by the hasty writer for the daily press, and synonyms are used in a way which will astonish the philologist of the future. The effort at fine writing and the disinclination to use plain English are very melancholy. Why should the penny-a-liner, when announcing the illness of a distinguished person, write, as he did, that his lordship still retained his couch, when he only meant that the poor gentleman kept his bed? Is this one bit better English than that of the German who offered me a book, and, wishing to convey his readiness to part with his property, stated that he was not disaffected to abstain from it? But to return from this digression. With other ephemeral literature you will be better able to cope. Magazines and reviews have increased enormously in number during the rise of the present generation; but fortunately of these no free library need make more than a selection. It is for you to select the best, and if any selected one should deteriorate you will have no compunction in cutting it off. But perhaps the most significant change in the literature of the present day is that which has shown itself in serious and educational books. We live in the days of small books on



great subjects, of primers, of epoch-histories, of series of small biographies, in fact of miniature volumes, in which is condensed the information which used to be conveyed in a much larger form. It is an age of literature in nutshells. All this, I venture to think, points significantly to the fact that we do not live in a reading age in the true sense of the word. Undoubtedly, more people read than formerly; general education is far more widely diffused; but we live too fast, as a nation, to find time to read deeply. How frequently we hear it said, "I have no time for reading;" and it is literally true. The race of life moves too swiftly, there are too many distractions, and there are too many calls upon us in the busy world for one to find leisure for more than taking our literature as we take extract of meat—in small nutritious doses. Admirably written as many of these little books are, one cannot but think that we are rather overstocked with them; and on the other hand we must be content if the world in general will read them, which will read nothing else of larger extent. You will hand down to posterity a large harvest of these little books.

As a sign too of general reading, but not I fear of deep reading, is the crop of reprints of old literature which has sprung up in recent years; for in these too you find that the boiling-down process, wherever possible, is pretty liberally exercised. Some editors of such reprints, whose names will occur to all of you, have done their work with remarkable ability, and deserve unbounded thanks for bringing our standard writers of past days within the reach of all. But in some instances I am really puzzled to divine why the reprint appears. Publishers are generally supposed to understand their business, and do not usually issue books, if I may say so, for the fun of the thing. The other day I chanced to take up a reprint of some edition of Shakespeare, which I suppose might have cost a few pence, printed in such minute type that no one with any respect for his eyesight or a wish to enjoy the great poet without the aid of a magnifying-glass—fancy reading Shakespeare with a magnifying-glass!—would dare to read a page of it. It was a relief to find that the book was uncut. The contemplation of this astonishing example of misapplied ingenuity set me wondering whether there be bibliomaniacs in humble life who collect such curiosities of literature at a cheap rate, and thus create a market for a literally most unreadable literature. Whatever I and my successors may have to do, you who have the power of choice need not hand down such curiosities to posterity.



But there is one particular branch of literature in which you must be specially interested, and in which, I think, the librarian of a free library will have to exercise more vigilant control than in almost any other branch. I speak of light literature, and particularly of prose fiction. Very properly the free library must contain a large proportion of such works of fiction, for a large proportion of your readers are those who, after the bodily toil of the day, take up literature as a recreation; and it will be your desire to place before them the best light literature that can be had. There is no dearth of material to choose from. Light literature for young people has grown enormously—not all of it good certainly, but abundant enough to enable you to exclude the bad without stinting your supply. But what are we to say for the novel? I suppose there is no class of book in literature to which the epithet “trashy” is so frequently applied, and to which it is applied more justly. And naturally there is no book which more clearly reflects the temperament of the society of the day. The old-fashioned regulation three-volume novel is, I am told, in danger. The nervous impatience of the present generation finds three volumes, printed large and with beautiful margins, too much for endurance; the boiling-down process is again applied to suit the modern taste, and the result is a production which I am told is called the “shilling dreadful,” and which deals largely with the horrible. You have to make your selection, and again, happily, there is no dearth of good material to choose from. How you will make your selection I must leave to you, for at this point our roads diverge and we part company. I have to take all—good, bad, and indifferent; but only serve it out when time has mellowed it, and taken some of the strong flavour from even the “shilling dreadful.”

Let us now dismiss libraries and their contents and speak of librarians and their profession. That profession is an honourable one. It is also an ancient one. In the time of the Sixth dynasty of the Pharaohs, five thousand years ago, there was an Egyptian official who was styled “the Governor of the House of Books;” and as literature flourished in that wonderful land hundreds of years even before that period, there is no improbability in the existence of libraries and librarians even in the days of the great pyramid-building kings. To descend from these ancient times to the period of the Assyrian Empire seems comparatively a transition to modern days. The libraries of Sennacherib and his successors have been recovered in the ruins

of the palaces of Nineveh of the seventh century B.C.—and they also must have had their “Governors of the House of Books.” There is in the British Museum a human skull, beaten in by a heavy blow, which was found in the library and treasury of the palace of Sennacherib. It is thought to have been the head of a warder or sentinel who was slain defending his post when the Medes and Babylonians stormed the devoted city in the year 609 B.C. I prefer to believe that it was the head of the librarian, who met his death in the place which was dearest to him, surrounded by his thousands of volumes of baked clay.

The modern librarian stands in little danger of being called on to have his head crushed in in the defence of his library against foreign assault. But, if he is true to his post, his living head must be at the service of his country, and his life must be one of self-sacrifice. You, librarians of free libraries, are more than mere “Governors of Houses of Books;” you have to dispense your books to others, and you hold a place among the educating forces of the country. To meet your duties, your lives must be one long course of self-improvement; every spare moment that can be found must be devoted to the increase of your knowledge—not to be stored up in your brains for your own gratification, but to be placed at the disposal of others. Your career may be a quiet one, unstirred by ambition, and working in a small sphere; but, if you have a true love of books, can you have a greater pleasure or a greater reward than to be able to take others by the hand and place them on the road which will lead them from the smoky, noisy town of their toiling lives into the pleasant fields and peaceful lanes of literature? And better still for them will it be if you can take them back to an earlier literature which will lift them out of themselves still more than the literature of their own day—an earlier literature written when men moved more deliberately, and which reflects the easier tone of the life of other days. What is it that impresses us so powerfully in the masterpieces of the art of the ancient world, in the paintings of the great painters of the middle ages, in the music of the great composers of the past, in the prose and poetry of the old writers? Is it not above all the sense of repose, the total absence of nervous hurry, the entire surrender and absorption of the mind of the worker into his work, utterly forgetful of the world around and its teasing influences? And do we not enter into the real spirit of those great works when we can cast ourselves aside and for a brief moment live another life in the calm atmosphere which surrounds them?



Let me conclude this portion of my address by quoting a few words on books written by a great modern English writer and thinker, no longer alas! among us; whose former home we are invited to visit on one of the afternoon excursions of this annual meeting. "Books," wrote Charles Kingsley<sup>1</sup>—"the written word of man—are precious heirlooms from one generation to another, training us, encouraging us, teaching us, by the words and thoughts of men whose bodies are crumbled into dust ages ago, but whose words—the power of uttering themselves, which they got from the Son of God—still live and bear fruit in our hearts, and in the hearts of our children after us, till the last day!"

This Library Association to which we belong has steadily developed since its foundation, and has taken up a position on which we may congratulate ourselves. We must do all that we can to strengthen that position. The Association is more than a literary society; it is a guild. It is not a society in which literary or other topics are discussed merely as the pleasures, apart from the business, of our lives; it is an association which concerns itself with the business of our lives, and in that business lie also our pleasures. The influence of this Association has already made itself felt, and with good management is destined, I feel sure, to be of the highest permanent benefit to the free libraries of the United Kingdom. As the guild or college maintains the standard of qualification of those who follow its craft or profession, so the moral influence of this Association will maintain the standard of the librarian's profession in the most remote corners of the land. Its existence before the public reminds men that we consider ourselves something more than mere keepers of books, more than the ancient "Governors of the Houses of Books;" that the librarian's calling is a real profession. And the public will assuredly take us at our own valuation and will require its librarians to be what they profess. Upon the practical advantage which is gained by these annual meetings I need not enlarge. The fact that they are held and are so well attended is a sufficient indication of your estimate of their utility. It is not the mere discussion of points of library management, the hearing of papers, and the other solemn parts of the business of our meetings which recommend them to your attendance and your attention. It is still more the fact that here you stand face

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<sup>1</sup>*Village Sermons*: Sermon xxiv.



to face, that you interchange ideas, that you see what manner of men you individually are, and that, when you part company and separate to your homes, you carry back with you a personal knowledge of your fellows, and, I trust, a higher view of your duties and an encouragement to still more strenuous exertions. "Iron sharpeneth iron; so a man sharpeneth the countenance of his friend." I do not share the fear that your annual meetings will ever degenerate into mere picnics. I know that some have expressed that fear. But I also know that many of you—I may even say, most of you—attend them at a sacrifice both of time and money. I think that, while you make such sacrifices and while you are so much in earnest as you are your meetings must always have the practical benefits to which I have referred.

And the mention of those sacrifices leads me to touch on a matter which concerns you in your private capacity, and not as librarians; but upon which I venture to speak, as I have truly at heart the welfare of the profession to which you belong. That calling is not a highly paid one; it never can be a highly paid one. You are content to follow a quiet path in life, free from the anxieties and chances of business or the independent professions, and are satisfied with a modest but regular income. If you have a competence you esteem yourselves happy. Then the day comes when you give hostages to fortune, and as prudent men you do your best to make provision for the future—such provision as lies within your means. But who shall tell what a day may bring forth? Sudden misfortune, sudden illness may come upon us when we least expect it, and it is then that Fortune frowns and points significantly to the hostages which we have placed in her hands. From no fault of his own a man may sink into troubles which will tell hard upon his life, and harass his mind with anxiety for those whom he will leave behind. I should be glad to see this Association become the means of relieving some of those troubles of our poorer brethren. It would be fulfilling a duty which I think is incumbent upon it, if it is to be the real representative Association of the Libraries of the United Kingdom, if it is to be a guild and not become simply a literary society. The Association now consists of upwards of four hundred members, and this number will undoubtedly grow with the increase of free libraries. I should be glad to see a portion of our income set aside to contribute to a benevolent fund. Our Treasurer will be able to tell us whether such an assignment is possible. I hope it may be. But, in addition, I

am sure that many independent subscriptions would also come in from individual members and from other sources. I have no definite scheme to lay before you, I give expression rather to a suggestion that you, the members of this Association, should take into consideration the desirability and the feasibility of founding such a fund. If this suggestion should meet with your approval and should have a practical result, you have among your members many experienced minds to draw out a well-devised scheme and to give effect to it.

There remains the mournful duty of noticing the losses which this Association has sustained during the past year by the deaths of several of its members. Mr. J. E. Bailey, of Manchester, the eminent collector; Mr. Henry Campkin, once librarian of the Reform Club; Mr. D. Geddes, of Blackburn; and Mr. E. Neville, of the Darwen Public Library—all these have passed away; and also, at an early age, Mr. John Hall, who had just left the Nicholson Institute, Leek, to take up his new appointment to the Croydon Public Library. We have also to regret the loss of two men who, though not librarians, were bibliographers. Mr. Edward Hailstone was happy in being the successor of the naturalist, Waterton, in the possession of Walton Hall, Wakefield, and still happier in sharing many of the naturalist's tastes. His large library, which contained so much of value for the history of his own county, has passed into the safe keeping of the Dean and Chapter of York. In Mr. William Blades, the world has lost a distinguished bibliographer and typographer; not only in this generation, but also in the future, his name will ever be honourably connected with that of the great father of English printing, whose works he made his special study.

In conclusion, let me express the gratitude which we all feel to our good friends who have invited us to make Reading our meeting-place for this year. I venture to think that we now gathered here are especially fortunate. Seated in the midst of a beautiful country, Reading has not yet spread her skirts too widely. The programme of local arrangements, which has been placed in our hands, proves how closely the happy people of Reading live to the greenwood tree. It has been said that we, the dwellers in great cities, beyond whose circuits we can seldom move, appreciate the pleasures of the country with a keenness and delight unknown to the blithesome peasant "who whistles o'er the furrowed land." If I may judge by my own

feelings, I should say that this is assuredly true. The wretched Londoner, after the toils of the day, tramps along his native pavement and deems himself fortunate if he can snatch a quiet half-hour in some corner of one of the parks not yet beset by fanatics or social reformers, and he tries to imagine himself in the country. A miserable make-believe! And the poor prisoner will even pretend that he is in the height of bliss, and, if of a poetic turn, will pen a sonnet to the shady side of Pall Mall, as the country walk which he loves best of all. But the trifler knows all the time how truly the poet speaks:—

“If thou art worn and hard beset  
With sorrows that thou wouldst forget,  
If thou wouldst read a lesson that will keep  
Thy heart from fainting, and thy soul from sleep,  
Go to the woods and hills! No tears  
Dim the sweet look that Nature wears.”

Here, then, finding ourselves in this pleasant country town, within reach of the delights of Nature, let us, fellow-librarians, seek

“Tongues in trees, books in the running brooks,  
Sermons in stones, and good in everything.”





## THE LIBRARY CHRONICLE.

### Thirteenth Annual Meeting of the Library Association of the United Kingdom.

IF any member of the Association absented himself from the Thirteenth Annual Meeting under the impression that a small town meant a small meeting and that Reading could not vie with the larger towns that have entertained the Association in previous years, his want of faith has deprived him of a great pleasure, for the Reading meeting will yield to none that have gone before either for interest and importance, or for the generous scale on which the local arrangements and hospitalities were carried out. Whether the Local Committee were able to secure the control of the weather we are unable to say, but the fact remains that the only thing which could have marred so excellent a programme was bad weather, and from Tuesday to Saturday night the weather was simply perfect—the only rain that fell being considerably turned on at night in order to lay the dust for the next day's excursions. Future local secretaries should apply to Mr. Greenhough for the secret.

Very early in the year a thoroughly Representative Local Committee was formed for the purpose of carrying out the necessary arrangements; and the Association is under a deep debt of gratitude to those gentlemen, no less for the generous scale upon which their hospitalities were planned, but for the admirable manner in which every detail in the programme was carried out, without a single hitch from first to last. The Committee was composed of the following gentlemen:—

*Chairman*:—The Mayor, Mr. J. T. Dodd.\*

*Deputy Chairman and Treasurer*:—Mr. Wm. I. Palmer.\*

*Honorary Secretary*:—Mr. Wm. H. Greenhough.\*

Mr. Alderman Andrewes	Mr. Councillor Waite*
„ Beale	Mr. F. W. Albury
„ Blandy	Mr. B. J. Austin
„ Hill*	Mr. H. Day*
„ Messer*	Rev. P. H. Ditchfield*
„ Monck*	Mr. J. Egginton
Mr. Councillor Attwells	Mr. S. Griffiths
„ Ferguson	Rev. J. M. Guilding*
„ Field	Dr. Hurry*
„ George	Mr. F. W. Leslie
„ Guilding	Mr. G. Palmer*
„ Heelas	Mr. W. Palmer
„ Martin*	Dr. Price
„ Nicholson	Dr. Shettle*
„ Palmer	Mr. H. J. Simonds
„ Parfitt	Mr. C. Smith*
„ Philbrick*	Dr. Stevens*
„ Ridley*	Rev. R. R. Suffield*
„ Simonds	Mr. H. Sutton*
„ Stallwood	Rev. F. St. John Thackeray
„ Stebbings	

*Those marked with an asterisk constituted the Executive Committee.*

A new feature was introduced at this meeting which we trust will become established—we refer to the Reception on the *eve* of the meeting. Apart from its pleasantness as a function this arrangement is of consider-

able practical value, as it gives the members an opportunity of exchanging greetings before the real business of the meeting begins, and thus saves valuable time on the first morning that has hitherto been devoted to this purpose in spite of programmes and frowning officials.

On Tuesday evening the Association was received by the Mayor and the members of the Local Committee, the Mayor being accompanied by the Mayoress, his daughter. An excellent programme of music and the geniality of our hosts made a delightful evening pass away all too quickly.

#### BUSINESS.

#### FIRST DAY—WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 17TH.

AT ten o'clock the Mayor of Reading (J. T. Dodd, Esq.) took the Chair. He said he was occupying the position of Chairman only for a very few moments, and would soon make room for the President of the Association. He felt it right that he should open the proceedings by offering the Association a hearty welcome to the hall in which their business was to be conducted, in which their labours and deliberations—which could not but result in a beneficial effect to literature, the promotion of libraries, and the furtherance of all the good objects they had in view—would take place. The Mayor then invited the President to take the chair.

The following new members and associates were proposed by the Local Secretary, Mr. W. H. Greenhough :—

#### *List of New Members.*

Barton, T. B., 13, Temple Row, Wrexham.  
 Brittain, Alderman W. H., Chairman, Free Library Committee, Sheffield.  
 Gosport Free Library.  
 Hawkins, H., Mayor of Wallingford, Cranford House, Moultsford.  
 Holme, C., Red House, Bexley Heath, Kent.  
 Hunt, W., Claremont, Parson's Green, S.W. ; Free Library Committee, Fulham.  
 Hurry, Dr., 43, Castle Street, Reading ; Free Library Committee, Reading.  
 Hurst, T., Librarian, Free Public Library, Sheffield.  
 Kendrick, Dr. W. H., West Bromwich.  
 Morrison, Alderman W. S., Eastbourne.  
 Palmer, W. I., Grazeley Court, near Reading ; Chairman, Free Library Committee, Reading Free Library.  
 Smith, J., Librarian, Leyland Library, Hindley, near Wigan.  
 Spokes, Russell, Ruswarp, Munster Road, Fulham, S.W.  
 Suffield, Rev. R. R., Craven Road, Reading.  
 Summers, J. F., West Marylebone Free Library.  
 Thompson, D. G., East Marylebone Free Library.  
 Tyler, Dr. W., Pine House, Holloway ; Hon. Sec. Free Library, Bethnal Green.

#### *List of Associates.*

Baker, Mr. A., *Reading Mercury*.  
 Barrett, Mr., Caversham.  
 Boddington, H., Wilmslow, Manchester.  
 Fullalove, W. T., Assistant Town Clerk, Reading.  
 Hissey, Miss, Norcot House, Tylehurst.  
 Hissey, Miss A., Norcot House, Tylehurst.  
 Langley, Miss, Lovejoy's Library, Reading.  
 Long, Mrs. Tangle, Crescent Road, Reading.  
 Nield, Miss, Greenbank, London Road, Reading.  
 Palmer, G., Free Public Library Committee, Reading.  
 Royds, W. A. S., 32, London Street, Reading.  
 Southern, J. W., Levenshulme, Manchester, Chairman, Manchester Free Public Library.

Tunbridge, Mr. F., 39, Castle Street, Reading.  
 They were unanimously elected.



The President then delivered his Annual Address.<sup>1</sup>

The Mayor proposed a vote of thanks to the President for his most interesting and valuable address. It was full of thoughtful and valuable suggestions, which could only be to the benefit of the library movement, and to every one in the room who had listened to it.

Mr. Chancellor Christie seconded the resolution, and congratulated the Association on having such an able President. He was exceedingly pleased to find that the President had paid a great deal more attention than his predecessors to the literary aspect of the library question. He had shown that a librarian's life should not merely be a mechanical one, but had especially called attention to the fact that it should be the life of a literary man. He thought the suggestion thrown out by the President was a valuable one, and one which they should each bear in mind, viz., that they should all take some particular subject and devote themselves to it as a literary quest, so to speak. A course like that would give a great deal of enjoyment to the librarian's life, and enable him in a great measure to be of use in his position as a librarian. He (Chancellor Christie) was very much pleased with the suggestion given, that help should be given to their poorer brethren. If a practical scheme were brought forward he would give his most cordial assistance in every way, and contribute to it.

Professor Justin Winsor (of Harvard, U.S.A.) (addressing the assembly as "brothers and sisters") said he was extremely glad to be with them that day. He was present at the birth of the Association. He brought with him the congratulations of the American Library Association.

Mr. Tedder (Treasurer of the Association) said he should only be too delighted to receive subscriptions towards the proposed fund.

The President then returned thanks for the very kind way in which they had received his address, and proceeded to call on the Rev. F. St. John Thackeray for his paper, entitled "The Chief Private Libraries of the district around Reading."

After the paper the President thanked Mr. Thackeray for his interesting paper, remarking that though of extreme interest it was not provocative of discussion, but they would all look forward to its publication in *The Library* with pleasure.

The Rev. J. M. Guilding then read a paper entitled "The Charters and other Muniments of the Corporation of Reading."

The President, in moving a vote of thanks to Mr. Guilding, said that the reading of such a paper could not fail to create a healthy interest in a most important subject, and he trusted the Corporation would see its way to print some of the more important documents referred to.

Mr. Greenhough (Reading) read a paper "On the Ventilation, Heating and Lighting, especially Electric Lighting, of Public Libraries and Reading Rooms."

The President said they were very much indebted to Mr. Greenhough for the statistics in his paper, which would be of the greatest value. The great difficulty they had to contend with in the matter of ventilation was the ventilation of large rooms. He thought that more important even than letting air in was the letting out of impure air, and that from above. In the Reading Room of the British Museum the difficulty was met by having hot-water coils fixed high up to draw the air out. Unless the vitiated air was drawn out from above it cooled and became injurious to health. With regard to lighting, that was an old question. He had had no experience with gas; they had now the electric light in the Museum, and always would have it.

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<sup>1</sup> Printed as the first article in this number.



Mr. Cowell (Liverpool) said he could bear his testimony in favour of electricity as a means of lighting as compared with gas. For ten years now they had had electric light in the Picton Reading Room, but in other parts of the library they had had gas. More recently they had discarded electricity in the Brown Reading Room on account of its excessive cost. One of the reasons why electricity was given up was because there were no books stored in that room which could be injured. An extraordinary statement was made by a man, who said electricity brought on *tic-doloreux*. He said he always had it on the side of his face which was exposed to the light. He (Mr. Cowell) had tested the colours of leather and paper by the electric light. He obtained some bright coloured leathers, and exposed them for some considerable time, and he had come to the conclusion that electricity did not affect colours in leathers. Their bills were lessened by £200 a year by returning to gas (the Sugg lamp) in some rooms. With the ordinary gas lighting one could hardly breathe at all near the upper shelves, but with the introduction of these lamps a very great improvement had been effected.

Alderman W. H. Bailey (Salford) said he had had some practical experience of the cost of electric light, having fitted an installation in his own premises at the Albion Works, Salford; and he found that the cost for fuel for forty 16 candle power lamps was about 1d. per hour. For drawing, office work, and also for book-keeping and general desk writing or drawing, he considered the 8 candle power lamp the best. Sixty 8 candle power lamps cost for four hours' work 4d., but in the winter months it might be estimated that the cost of fuel for lighting up the offices varied from 4d. to 6d. per night, the motor in this case being a high-class steam engine with an absolute cut-off valve; the engine working with a variable expansion, so that the steam used was in exact proportion to the amount of power required—that is to say, when half the lamps were on only half the fuel would be used. He thought that the cost of electric lighting in the future would be very much less than it had been in the past, as in the infancy of electric lighting very few trained men were in existence, but now high-class scientific engineers and electricians were generally engaged in the work, and the experience gained produced more economical results. He thought for outside street work electric light had not much of a future in this country as gas was far cheaper; but for inside work, for rooms where people had to live and breathe, the electric light was healthier and better in every way. Especially for libraries and reading rooms the electric light had no rival either in gas or any other method of lighting. The ill-health produced in librarians and others who were doomed to live in rooms illuminated by gas was somewhat melancholy to contemplate, because the fine dust, heated by the burning gas, produced what he would call "sand paper" in the atmosphere, producing what might be called artificial bronchitis. There was no doubt that the death-rate in our large towns was very much more accelerated by breathing dust and dirt than by all the stinks in Christendom. Electric lighting cost more than gas, and it was worth more. Bindings of books would be less injured, works of art would be preserved for a longer period, and decorative work generally in public rooms would be more protected if the electric light were more popular. He considered the paper just read one of the most valuable productions ever read before the Society, and he hoped that the members of the Library Congress would in every possible way influence public opinion, so as to increase the popularity of electric lighting in the free libraries, and generally in the public institutions throughout the country. He would recommend library committees to do their work for themselves—to have their own dynamo and boiler, and get an electric lighting company to fix the wires. He advised them to do their own working because

the companies were composed of gentlemen who expected to get large profits. The electric light was by far the best. It certainly cost about double that gas did, but it was worth three times as much.

Mr. Tedder said that in his opinion this was one of the best papers they had had for a long time. It showed careful attention to the dry details of mechanical librarianship, which were often lost sight of. He mentioned that at the Athenæum, Faraday had found from experiments that the sun burners dangerously increased the risk of fire. With regard to electricity, they had made the light at the Athenæum for the last six years, and found it to be a very great improvement ; it was more convenient and pleasant. He quite agreed with what Mr. Bailey said as to the charges of companies. The Athenæum made it 25 per cent. cheaper than the companies. They ran their engines twelve hours every day.

Mr. Herbert Jones (Kensington) said electricity was better for the books, for the public, and—what might be considered of small importance by some—better for the health of the librarian. As regarded the cost of gas and electricity, no doubt the evidence, so far, was against electricity. At the Kensington central library they had had electricity for a year. At the branches they used gas. At the end of about fourteen months they found the branches required cleaning, white-washing, and painting ; whilst the central library was practically as clean to-day as it was a year ago. If they got an estimate of the cost of painting, &c., they would find that in actual practice they had effected a saving. With regard to the necessity of putting a new lamp in the place of one that had gone out, he thought in a short time it would be found possible to refit the old lamps for service again.

Questioned by Mr. Burgoyne, Mr. Bailey said he did not know the average "lifetime" of a lamp, as he had not reached the testing by destruction yet. As to the total cost of the installation of electricity, the cost of wiring was about 35s. per lamp. He would recommend people not to have it done at a lower price. A few years ago, when electricity became popular, it seemed to be a sort of refuge for the destitute ; every one who had read a book on electricity went into the trade and brought it into great disrepute.

A member, whose name the reporter failed to note, said that in his house after years of experiment they had, in ordinary rooms, such as drawing and dining rooms, adopted the Wenham lamp. Ventilation was carried on through the top of the lamp and over the ceiling, through an upright shaft higher than the chimneys of the house. Ventilation was also provided through the fire-place, and either system had contributed greatly to domestic comfort.

Mr. MacAlister said that as regarded the number of hours a lamp would burn, he knew of one that had burned continuously for 1,500 hours, and, he believed, was burning yet. He thought 1,000 hours would prove the average "life." There was no doubt electric light was more expensive than gas—it was in fact about three times as costly as gas—but taking book-binding, cleaning, painting, white-washing, &c., into consideration, a considerable proportion of the extra cost was saved. Though it cost more, there was no doubt it was well worth the extra expense. At his own library it solved the ventilation question. They had their own plant and a battery of cells that stored energy enough to last for a week if the engine broke down. Messrs. Shoolbred & Co. had saved £1,000 for cleaning, &c., in the last two years by using the electric light. Messrs. Schweppe's, mineral water manufacturers, had found that they got better work, could work longer hours, had fewer absences on the score of sickness, and had profited to such an extent that they would on no account go back to gas. It was the one light for libraries, and he believed before long it would be universal.



The President said that if any of those present were going to undertake the installation of electricity in any large place where the public were admitted in large numbers, they should think seriously of having a duplicate system throughout. They had in the British Museum a duplicate system, so that if there was a sudden failure the second engine could take up the work. They could transfer from one engine to another without anyone perceiving it.

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At the conclusion of the morning sitting the members adjourned to the old Town Hall, where an excellent luncheon was served, which, to all appearance, was highly appreciated. This hospitable attention was repeated on Thursday and Friday. At two o'clock the whole party were conveyed in waggonettes and brakes to Silchester, the English Pompeii, the route chosen being through some of the prettiest country in the neighbourhood.

On arriving at Silchester the party was met by Mr. G. E. Fox, F.S.A., who in the absence of Dr. Stevens, the honorary curator of the Reading Museum, kindly conducted the members over the ruins. He proved to be an admirable *cicerone*—giving his hearers an interesting and lucid explanation of what they had come to see without wearying them by a lecture. Ever attentive to the physical needs of their guests the local committee, at 5 o'clock, provided what they modestly described as "afternoon tea" in a large marquee, which had been pitched in an adjoining field, after which the company in merry mood re-entered the carriages and returned to Reading.

#### THE ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING.

In the evening a special session was held to dispose of official business, and at 8.30 Mr. Chancellor Christie was voted to the chair.

The Report of the Council was submitted.

The Chairman, in moving its adoption, commented briefly upon the various matters contained in the Report. Speaking of the reference made to library legislation, he said it was a fact of great importance that Sir John Lubbock's bill had become law, and he need say nothing more upon that, as they were to discuss it on the following day. He thought they might congratulate themselves upon the extent to which the Free Library movement had progressed since the last annual meeting. He congratulated the Association upon the regularity in the production of *The Library*. It gave them a great amount of information and material, and had the extreme merit of appearing at the very time it was most useful to them. He considered it also a matter of satisfaction that the Dublin and Plymouth publications had appeared. He went on to observe that the monthly meetings had been well attended, and he believed they had been very satisfactory. The obituary losses had that morning been feelingly referred to by their President, but he felt that he should express how deeply they must all regret the loss of Mr. Blades, who was one of the most capable and most valuable of their members. The removal of their quarters to the house of the Royal Medical and Chirurgical Society in Hanover Square was a matter upon which the Council might very properly congratulate itself. Thanks to Mr. Mac Alister they had there, where there were already a large number of literary and scientific societies, excellent and he hoped lasting accommodation, and rooms where they could meet. They had now a place in which they hoped their property would be preserved, and they trusted that in time they would have a library and appliances and matters of interest to librarians collected. With regard to the finances, he was pleased to see that they were in a more satisfactory condition than



they had been since his connection with the Society. He concluded by proposing the adoption of the Report and financial statement.

Mr. Craig Brown (Selkirk) seconded the motion.

Mr. May (Birkenhead), referring to the item of payment to Messrs. Kegan Paul & Co. for "stock of *Monthly Notes*," said these contained much valuable bibliographical information. He had been unsuccessful in his attempt to complete a set of *Monthly Notes* for his own library, and would like to know whether the whole stock was now in the hands of the Association, and whether members could be supplied with complete sets.

Mr. Tedder replied that this sum of £3 had been paid for the entire remainder of *Monthly Notes*. There were not very many complete sets, but of some parts there were a large number of copies. They would therefore probably be able to supply members with missing numbers.

Mr. May expressed satisfaction at this announcement, and suggested that it would be well to circulate a list of what numbers were in hand, so that members might be able to apply for numbers which they required.

Mr. Herbert Jones (Kensington) thought that if the Benevolent Fund could be increased by the transfer of the surplus income it would serve a very useful purpose. He believed it would commend itself to the attention of public library committees. If these knew there was such a fund to meet cases in which, through misfortune, any member of that Association was incapacitated, they would assist. Could they not grant a fixed sum, say £25, this year towards the Fund? He was prepared to move that this be an instruction to the Council.

Mr. Watson (Hawick), referring to the *Manual*, said he was glad to see that the Committee were prepared with work for which they had been waiting for so many years. He suggested that it might be to their advantage to indicate in *The Library* the extent of the subjects to be treated. He pointed out that some matters which were A B C to others were of great value to young librarians, and there might be some danger of overlooking this.

Mr. Tedder said he thought the Council would have to consider very seriously how they were going to spend their balance next year, and though the suggestion of Mr. Jones might be a matter for them to discuss and thresh out, he did not think it would be advisable to make any formal proposal on the subject so as to fetter the Council. It was well understood that they would require a large sum and a large number of subscribers to commence a Benevolent Fund. He did not think this should come before the Council as an instruction. He mentioned that he had already received one subscription of two guineas from Mr. Knapman for this excellent object.

The Chairman then put the resolution that the Report be adopted, which was carried *nem. con.*

Mr. Madeley (Warrington) then read the amendments of the constitution of which he had given notice:—

"RULE 9.—That the number of Vice-Presidents in line 3 read 'eight' instead of 'twelve,' and that the last clause read thus: 'To these shall be added four additional Vice-Presidents to be appointed by the Council, and all past Presidents.'"

"RULE 11.—To insert after the word President the following words, 'and Vice-Presidents appointed by the Council under Rule 9,' and to add the following clause: 'At each Annual Meeting two elected Vice-Presidents and five ordinary members of Council shall, by rotation, be ineligible for the same office for one year.'"

"NEW RULE.—To add this rule "The Council shall at their first meeting after election appoint one of their number as Chairman for the year."

He explained that the first proposition was in order that four vice-presidentships should be reserved for the local men of the place where the

annual meeting was held. By the second proposition he endeavoured to produce an automatic circulation of members through the Council. This rule would result in a certain number of new members, who had not previously served, being put upon the Council every year. With regard to the proposal that the Council should elect a chairman, the idea was that a permanent chairman would be of great assistance in the management and control of the business of the Association. As to the proposal for retirement by rotation, the usual practice was selection by fitness; but neither this nor the striking off of those members who attended the least number of meetings produced the result he desired.

He proposed the first resolution and Mr. May seconded.

Mr. Holborn (London) said Mr. Madeley appeared to have attempted to swallow their rules and been unable to digest them. It was palpable that the proposed alterations would disorganise the constitution which many were only beginning to understand. If these alterations were made, some of them would require to begin their education over again.

Mr. Mullins (Birmingham) said every one was indebted to Mr. Madeley for the fatherly care he took of their constitution. Most members forgot that they had one immediately after the annual meeting, and until Mr. Madeley reminded them of its existence by his annual proposals to amend it. The best proof that it was a good one was the fact that no one gave it a thought except Mr. Madeley, whose special care it was; he strongly objected to this tinkering, and hoped all the proposals would be rejected.

Mr. Cowell (Liverpool) did not think sufficient reason had been shown for the alteration. The rules had worked well so far, and he did not see any necessity to alter them.

Upon being put to the meeting only one voted for the proposition, which was therefore lost.

Mr. Madeley then proposed his second motion. His strong reason for the creation of vacancies was the extreme difficulty that now existed of putting the most eligible men upon the Council. To secure the election of any man whom they might want to put on the Council, they would have to canvass the dismissal of some present member of that body.

Mr. Radford (Nottingham) seconded, thinking this would be the means of creating a greater interest in the doings of the Council amongst the members.

On being put to the vote there were—for the proposition twenty, and against, thirty-nine; it was therefore lost.

Mr. Madeley then moved, and Mr. Ogle seconded, his third resolution. He thought it was very necessary that they should have a chairman who was able to preserve the continuity of business.

Mr. May considered it would be a discourteous action towards the gentleman to be elected president.

Mr. Madeley denied this, and pointed out that it was not an uncommon arrangement to do as he proposed.

The proposition was then put to the meeting and lost.

Mr. Ogle (Bootle) moved:—

“That third class return railway fare be paid to each provincial member of the Council attending Council meetings in London; provided that not more than three meetings in one year be paid for.”

His object was simply to make the election of country members more of a reality than at present. The country members ought to be better represented than they were now. Many of those elected came some distance from the north and west, and he thought it only fair that their railway fares should be paid. He would like to see the plan of holding country meetings extended.

Mr. Buckland (Stockport) seconded.

Mr. Wright (Plymouth) thought this would raise difficulties which did not exist now. London was most accessible for all.



The Chairman called attention to the rule stating that the President could call a meeting when and where he liked.

On a show of hands twenty voted for, and thirty-one against.

The Chairman said the Council had agreed to recommend, that they hold their next annual meeting at Bristol.

Mr. John Taylor (Public Library, Bristol) said it would give him much pleasure to welcome the Association to Bristol. Their central library was the oldest in the kingdom, and they had some good branch libraries. He would formally propose that the next annual meeting be held at Bristol.

Mr. MacAlister seconded.

The Chairman said, knowing Mr. Taylor as well as they did, they might be sure of as cordial a welcome and as successful a meeting as they had had in Reading. They were much obliged to Mr. Taylor for the invitation.

The proposition was unanimously approved.

Mr. Tedder proposed a vote of thanks to the Honourable Society of Gray's Inn for their kind hospitality last year. They owed very much to them, and now that they were going to a home of their own they should thank the authorities of Gray's Inn for their long-continued kindness.

Mr. MacAlister seconded. He thought they could scarcely appreciate too highly what Gray's Inn had done for them. If it had not been for that body probably the Library Association could not have gone on.

The proposition was carried unanimously.

The Chairman proposed a vote of thanks to the Committee appointed to deal with the Dublin and Plymouth publications for their services, and especially to Mr. Edmond for seeing the volumes through the press, and to Mr. May for his excellent index.

Mr. MacAlister seconded.—Carried unanimously.

This concluded the official business.

Later on the Executive Committee met in full session under the able presidency of Mr. Alderman Bailey and the vice-presidency of Mr. R. M. Holborn. The proceedings, which occupied the close attention of the members till an early hour, were of a highly important but strictly private character, and cannot therefore be reported.

#### SECOND DAY—THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 18TH.

The Association sat at 10 o'clock, the President in the chair.

A paper on "Public Library Legislation" was read by Mr. Chancellor Christie, in the absence of Mr. George Whale, the author. It was explained by Mr. MacAlister that the paper was written before Sir John Lubbock's bill was passed.

The President, on the conclusion of the paper, said that any points in the paper might be dealt with in the discussion on the Draft Bill. It would expedite matters, he thought, if he were to read the Bill clause by clause, and to have amendments brought forward as they arose.

#### DISCUSSION ON DRAFT BILL.

The President then proceeded to read the preamble of the Draft Bill:—

"Whereas divers Acts of Parliament are now in force for the establishment and management of Free Public Libraries and Museums in England, Scotland, and Ireland respectively. And whereas it is expedient to consolidate and amend the said Acts, and whereas it is further expedient to extend the said Acts and to facilitate the establishment of (1) Libraries, (2) Museums, (3) Art Galleries, and (4) Schools of Science and Art, and more clearly to define the authorities to carry the said Acts into execution and define their powers and duties, be it therefore enacted by the



Queen's Most Excellent Majesty by and with the advice and consent of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal and Commons in this present Parliament assembled and by the authority of the same as follows :—

Mr. Lane Joynt (Dublin) moved that the words "Schools of Music" be added after "Science and Art."

Mr. MacAlister seconded.

Mr. Councillor Rawson (Manchester) said he thought the management of the establishments spoken of in the Bill was quite onerous enough without the proposed additions.

Mr. Herbert Jones (Kensington) suggested that the words "Schools of Science and Art" be left out.

Mr. Christie moved that all after "Acts" in the fifth line of preamble to "duties" in the eighth line be omitted.

This amendment was seconded and carried, and Mr. Lane Joynt's was lost.

On the motion of Mr. Rawson, seconded by Mr. Pink (Cambridge), it was decided to alter "England, Scotland and Ireland" in the third line to "the United Kingdom."

The short title was then read.

*"Short Title.*

"1. This Act may be cited as the Public Libraries and Museums Act, 1890."

The President then read—

*"Repeal.*

"2. The Acts specified in Schedule A to this Act are hereby repealed from and after the passing of this Act. Provided that this repeal shall not affect

"(a) The past operation of any enactment hereby repealed, or any instrument or thing executed, done, or suffered before the passing of this Act.

"(b) Any right, obligation or liability acquired, accrued, or incurred under any enactment hereby repealed.

"(c) Any action, proceeding or thing pending or uncompleted at the time of the passing of this Act.

"(d) Any appointment already made of any body of persons under any of the Acts hereby repealed, and the persons so appointed shall continue in office as the authority and be subject to the provisions of this Act."

Mr. Madeley (Warrington) moved that the second sentence should read "provided that this repeal shall not invalidate anything done in pursuance of the said Acts," and that the rest of the clause be struck out. This was agreed to.

The President then read the

*"Interpretation of Terms.*

"3. In the construction of this Act the following words and expressions shall, unless there be something in the subject or context repugnant to such construction, or unless a contrary intention is expressed, have the following meanings assigned to them respectively, that is to say :— 'Parish' shall mean every place maintaining its own poor. 'Vestry' shall mean the inhabitants of the parish lawfully assembled in vestry, or for any of the purposes for which vestries are holden, except in those parishes in which there is a 'Select Vestry,' elected under the Act of the fifty-ninth year of King George the Third, chapter twelve, or under the Act of the first and second years of King William the Fourth, chapter sixty, or under the provisions of any local Act of Parliament for the govern-

ment of any parish by vestries, in which parishes it shall mean such select vestry, and shall also mean any body of persons, by whatever name distinguished, acting by virtue of any Act of Parliament, prescription, custom or otherwise, as or instead of a vestry or select vestry.

“‘Ratepayers’ shall mean all persons for the time being assessed to rates for the relief of the poor of the parish, or every inhabitant who would have to pay the free library assessment in event of the Act being adopted; and in the case of a burgh, all persons whose names are entered on the municipal register; and in the case of a parish in Scotland, all persons entitled to vote in the election of a school board in such parish, under the provisions of the ‘Education (Scotland) Act, 1872,’ and any Act amending the same.”

Mr. Fovargue (Eastbourne) moved to define “district” for the purposes of the acts as “a city, borough, parish, or other place in which an authority has the power to levy rates.” This was agreed to.

Mr. Fovargue also moved and Mr. Ogle seconded that the foregoing definition of “ratepayers” be amended as follows:—

“‘Ratepayers’ shall mean and include in England and Wales the burgesses of a borough, and elsewhere the county electors registered in respect of qualifications in the district. In Scotland, in the case of a borough, all persons whose names are entered on the municipal register, and elsewhere the county electors registered in respect of qualifications in the district. In Ireland, all persons for the time being assessed to rates for the relief of the poor of the parish, or every inhabitant who would have to pay the free library assessment in the event of the acts being adopted.” This was agreed to.

The President said it seemed to him these were very technical points, and he would leave it to the meeting whether it was worth while discussing mere technicalities.

Mr. Craig-Brown (Selkirk) said he thought it was a great mistake to go into the technicalities of the Bill. It was more the work of regular parliamentary draughtsmen.

Mr. MacAlister said that it would take many days to discuss the Bill if more than the written amendments handed in were taken. It was impossible for them to discuss the whole of the Bill; they should discuss the leading points and appoint a committee to go into it carefully, and report to the Association. They wanted at the present meeting to get the best thought and opinion on the main questions of the Bill. He would ask gentlemen who had suggestions to make which had not been handed in as amendments to put them on paper, and he would place them before the Committee.

The sense of the meeting was then taken, and the earlier portion of the Bill was passed over.

On the motion of Mr. Doubleday (Marylebone) it was decided to alter the mode of voting provided in the Bill from poll to ballot.

Mr. Burgoyne (Lambeth) moved that in the event of the proposal to adopt the Act being negatived, a like proposal could be brought forward in a year instead of two years.

It was agreed that the “two years” should read “not less than one year,” &c.

Mr. B. Wood (Bradford) proposed that authorities should be empowered by the Act to place land and buildings at the disposal of library committees free of charge. At present this was done on sufferance. In his own case they had to pay £900 a year for the use of buildings, the amount paid being one-fourth of their income. When they asked for immunity or a reduction they were told it would be illegal.

This proposal was seconded and carried unanimously.

Mr. Madeley called attention to the arbitrary manner in which the



rateable value in some towns was fixed, and the inconvenience arising therefrom. The product of the library penny rate differed very considerably in various towns even of the same population. Whilst the rate at Warrington was worth £11 odd per thousand of the population, at Southport it was worth over £25. On that ground he would move that it is desirable committees should be free to assess the expenditure necessary according to the wants of the town.

Mr. Rawson seconded, and suggested that libraries should be paid for from the rates under the same conditions as public parks, public baths and washhouses, &c. No doubt it was thought prudent to limit the rate when the library movement was started. After the experience the British public had had of the working of free libraries he believed the total abolition of the restrictions under which they worked would be accepted universally. The Library Acts were one of the most beneficent pieces of legislation which had been effected for a long time. Why should libraries be restricted, when public parks, baths and washhouses were not? People might rely on it there would be no excessive expenditure. The ratepayers would be sure to protect themselves on that point. The proposition was now timely and reasonable in the extreme. Besides the extraordinary anomalies pointed out by Mr. Madeley, Birmingham, Nottingham, Oldham and Wigan were exempted, by some means or other, from the restrictions of the Act, and why, in the face of that, should others be tied down to a miserably inadequate expenditure.

Mr. Ogle (Bootle) said the existing law made provision for a penny rate for libraries, with special conditions for London. They should not regard these things from the point of view of librarians only. The ratepayers should be considered.

Mr. Councillor Southern (Manchester) said the appeal for libraries was a penny at first merely because there was no experience to go upon. The experience now was that the operation of Library Acts had been widely and deeply beneficial. The true principle, he thought, was that those who were elected by the people and were responsible to the people for what they did, were the best judges of what was the right amount for expenditure on library purposes. If in any district public opinion was against going beyond a penny rate, those who were answerable would spend no more. In Manchester the old Town Hall was used for the library, and really in that way they spent in excess of the penny rate.

Mr. Herbert Jones said he thought they felt that everything which had been said in favour of public libraries was deserved; but while they would be helping the existing libraries in England, they must think of the places where the Library Acts had not yet been adopted, and whether they would be serving the public library cause generally by passing this amendment. The public were watching very closely the working of the Libraries Acts; and they looked principally at its effect on their pockets. They found the ratepayers even now saying—You will have the rate going up higher and higher—and they had to be disabused of this idea. He thought the present motion inexpedient, and one which would really be dealing a blow at the Library movement.

Mr. Gilburt (London) said he felt there was very great weight in the arguments so ably put forward on both sides. Libraries were not compulsory like School Boards. He thought if they had libraries all over the country they might look at this question from a very different standpoint.

Mr. Ward (?) said many towns and villages were opposed to School Boards because they had no limit to their expenditure. He thought it would be far better not to jeopardise the Library movement, but to wait until it had a more secure footing.

Mr. Greenhough said Reading was an admirable instance of that



point. The ratepayers refused to adopt the Act in that place, and it was some eight or ten years afterwards the library was started by Mr. W. I. Palmer, who at his own cost undertook to maintain it. After strenuous efforts the Acts were adopted. He thought it would be most disastrous to pass anything like the amendment before the meeting. Newbury was a similar case to Reading.

Mr. MacAlister suggested that the authority should be obliged to name the amount they wanted for a library and the public vote should fix the rate. If an increase were wanted another vote might be taken. That would, in his opinion, protect the public from an unlimited rate—but the legislature should leave the rate alone.

Mr. Fovargue said the authority should have power to adopt the Acts without going to the ratepayers. He thought if there had not been this limit of rate a great many towns would not have adopted the Acts. What was wanted, he thought, was some clause to empower those who had adopted the Act to have an extension of money. The question at issue was a suggestion in the Draft Bill to move in a reasonable manner, to keep the amount to be spent on a library and museum at the existing penny limit, to extend it to three-halfpence with the addition of other objects not being all the objects authorised, and to twopence where all the objects specified in sub-section A were used. He thought that a reasonable proposition, and librarians would do well to adopt this suggestion.

Mr. Madeley, replying, asked members to give their votes in accordance with the present condition of things, rather than to form their opinions on the position of affairs of some years ago when the Act was being taken up. There were now upwards of 200 places which had adopted the Libraries Acts, and on their behalf he applied for this relief. He thought it might be possible by this suggested method that the increased rate in the London districts might be regulated. He again appealed to members to bear in mind the established libraries, and not the interests of towns which had refused to adopt the Acts.

The amendment, on being put, was lost by thirty-five votes to twenty-eight.

It was moved by Mr. MacAlister on behalf of Mr. May, and seconded by Mr. Quinn, that in Section 8 a provision be inserted for a special rate not exceeding a farthing in the pound, for the sole purposes of buildings, to be levied only so long as a building debt existed.

Mr. Buckland (Stockport) moved that after the words "poor-rate" on page eight, line twelve, be added "Who shall pay the same to the library authority; and in a borough, as part of the borough rate, shall pay the same to the borough accountant."

Mr. Burgoyne seconded.

Mr. Dent (Aston) said that supposing the local governing authority levied a rate of 1d. in the pound, and the amount produced by that was placed to the credit of the Free Library Committee, the Local Government Board auditor had ruled that he would remove what money remained to the credit of the library at the end of the year, and would place that surplus with the district rate. Consequently no amount could be saved with a view to future expenditure on library objects. Usually the Library Committee at the end of a year saw every penny they had saved pass over to the district rate, thus benefiting the latter with money raised for a totally different object.

Mr. Taylor said that at Bristol they had saved £2,000 or £3,000 for a new library, and when they proposed to use it, they were informed it had been swamped in the borough fund.

Mr. Ogle said he supposed the Local Government Board auditor had a provision under which he did that. This draft Bill did not say anything of the kind, and he supposed it could not be done without authority.

Mr. Dent said that when they had succeeded in over-running the penny rate they had had it charged to them at the beginning of the next year's account. If that could be done, why should not an amount they had saved be carried over?

Mr. Mason (St. Martin-in-the-Fields) said he thought this was done in some London libraries.

Mr. May (Birkenhead) said that in some neighbourhoods the balance was certainly carried over to the following year.

Mr. Dent said that on appeal the Local Government Board had upheld the decision of their auditor.

The addition proposed by Mr. Buckland was then agreed to, with the further addition of the words "or any such officer as the authority shall appoint."

Mr. Dent moved that any balance remaining at the end of a year in favour of a library committee be carried over to the next year.

This was seconded by Mr. Herne and carried.

The President mentioned that at the British Museum the Government allowed a money grant, and what remained went back to the Treasury.

Mr. Burgoyne moved that in Section 8, Clause G, second line, after "free of charge" be added, "except on some occasions of no longer than thirty days, a charge for admission can be made, the money received being devoted to the purposes of the library."

Mr. Cowell (Liverpool) remarked that he thought the addition desirable, because in his town they made from £1,000 to £1,500 from the Art Gallery in this way.

Mr. Burgoyne then said he thought it would be desirable to leave out Clause G altogether, as under it they could not fine anyone for the detention or destruction of books. It said "No charge shall be made for the use of books," &c.

Mr. Christie hoped the whole clause would not be omitted, as it exempted the buildings from rates.

Mr. Burgoyne remarked that he had overlooked that, and then moved that all Clause G before "buildings" be deleted.

Mr. Briscoe (Nottingham) seconded, and it was carried.

Mr. MacAlister then moved that in the next section (9) everything be omitted after "management," remarking that as it was impossible to make an exhaustive list of a committee's powers and duties it was better to leave them undefined, for whatever was left out would be inferentially regarded as beyond their powers. The argument that an imperfect list of duties would be a help to new committees was met by the fact that however complete such a list might be, a new committee would certainly consult that of some well-established library before setting to work.

Mr. Buckland seconded.

Mr. Ogle said the reason why those details were put there was because town clerks were often written to by one another asking if such and such things could be done. If they read it carefully they would see it would not interfere with the committee doing other things. It directed them as to most of the things they could do.

Mr. Madeley thought it was not desirable or necessary to define the duties of committees as distinct from authorities. The '59 Act said the library shall be for the benefit of the ratepayers of a town and for others resorting thereto.

Mr. Fovargue said that if these details were cut out discussion would continually arise as to whether such and such things could be done. The points were gathered from experience, and would be of guidance to bodies who had to carry out the Acts.

Mr. Christie said there must be some conditions. It must be quite



impossible for a working Act to be passed which did not contain a considerable proportion of these rules.

Mr. MacAlister said he could scarcely imagine a town clerk asking if a thing "could be done" if the Act gave power to do "everything necessary or desirable for the management of the library."

On being put to the vote, Mr. MacAlister's amendment was lost.

Mr. Fovargue said he would like to hand in for the use of the committee a draft of an Amendment Bill prepared by the Town Clerk of Blackpool. Many of the provisions were covered by the Bill and others were not.

The meeting then adjourned for luncheon.

After luncheon a visit was paid to the ruins of Reading Abbey, where the Rev. J. M. Guilding, on behalf of the Berks Archæological Society, conducted the Association through the ruins and gave a most interesting account of the ancient Abbey.

At 4 p.m. the Berks Archæological Society received the Association in their room over the old Abbey Gateway.

The ancient parish churches of S. Lawrence and S. Mary were then visited, under the courteous guidance of the Rev. J. M. Guilding, and the afternoon's round of visits was brought to an end at the Reading School, where the Head Master received the Association and conducted it through the building.

In the evening the Mayor and Local Committee entertained the Association at a Soirée given in the rooms of the Town Hall, the Library and Museum. An excellent programme of music was provided, including items by the Royal Artillery String Band and the Royal Hand Bell Ringers. The less familiar performance of the Hand Bell Ringers was especially appreciated, and late in the evening inspired someone with the idea that a dance to the music of hand bells would be as delightful as it would be undoubtedly novel. The suggestion was promptly acted upon, and an impromptu dance, led off by the charming Mayoress, Miss Dodd, brought to a close a most enjoyable evening.

### THIRD DAY—FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 19TH.

The President took the Chair at 10 o'clock.

The Rev. P. H. Ditchfield (Rector of Barkham, Berks, and Secretary of the Berks Archæological Society) read a paper on "The Literature and Writers of Reading and the surrounding District."

At the conclusion of the paper the President expressed thanks to Mr. Ditchfield for his interesting paper, and observed that he had no idea the neighbourhood was so rich in early literature. Mr. Ditchfield had referred to the old song, or catch, "Summer is y-comen in," as having been written by a monk of Reading. This was generally considered to be the earliest song, and undoubtedly it was, even if dated about 1300; he was very happy to say it was really sixty years earlier, the true date being 1240.

Mr. W. A. Copinger (Manchester) then read a paper on "The Editions of the Latin Bible of the First Half Century of Printing."

At the conclusion of the paper the President said they were very much indebted to Mr. Copinger for his paper, and for the table of editions he had prepared, which he felt sure they would all find useful. The President added that Mr. Copinger wished him to state that he would be glad to have information as to any sixteenth century Bibles which librarians might have under their care.

Mr. Henry R. Plomer (London) read a paper on "The Literature of the Black Death and the Plague."



The President, in thanking Mr. Plomer for his paper, remarked that he had not told them so much about the Black Death as about the Plague. He hoped Mr. Plomer would be able to take up the literature of the Black Death more fully on some future occasion. Referring to the condition of the country at the time of the plague, the President said he remembered reading a letter written by a lady during the reign of Charles II. Speaking of the smallpox, the lady said that her little daughter had smallpox, and she was particularly anxious that her little boy should have it as well; she had, therefore, sent him into the same room; but he did not take it.

Mr. Welch (Guildhall) remarked that Dr. Freshfield, of London, had a considerable amount of interesting Plague literature, and he thought it would be a great advantage if they could have the particulars of the papers to be read a little earlier, as under the present arrangements they were prevented from reading up and preparing matter for discussion.

Mr. Frank Campbell (British Museum) read a paper on "An Introduction to the Theory of a State Paper Catalogue."

The President said they were very much obliged to Mr. Campbell for his paper. It was, perhaps, rather too technical to be thoroughly appreciated at first hearing, but was nevertheless most useful to them. It was a subject that should be thoroughly digested before attempting to classify catalogues.

#### PRIZE ESSAY.

Mr. MacAlister stated that he had a rather unpleasant announcement to make with regard to his prize for an essay on "The Origin and Progress of the Free Library Movement." The number of essays sent in was very small, and the judges reported that they had failed to find any which they could regard as worthy of the prize, and he had consequently been advised by them to withhold it. It was, nevertheless, his intention to continue the prize, and he should offer £20, instead of £10, next year, and this he hoped would bring forward something of superior quality.

The President said he had very great pleasure in proposing—

"That this Association desires to offer its very hearty thanks to the Mayor and Corporation of Reading for their kindness in placing the public buildings at the disposal of the Association for the purpose of its annual meeting."

He could see by the way in which they received this proposition that they thoroughly agreed with him that it was a mere expression of the gratitude which they all felt.

Mr. Harrison (London Library) said it was hardly necessary to second a proposition that was so unanimously accepted. It was to him, however, a great pleasure to express in the highest degree their gratitude for the kindness of the Mayor and Corporation.

The resolution was carried with acclamation.

Professor Justin Winsor proposed—

"That this Association desires to offer its very best thanks to the chairman and members of the committee of the Reading Free Public Library for their kind invitation to hold the Thirteenth Annual Meeting of the Library Association in Reading, and for the kindly consideration displayed to the members during the conference."

He remarked that it might seem strange that he, a comparative stranger, should propose this; but they had already experienced so much hospitality in the great towns of the United Kingdom, that perhaps they had become, so to speak, a little callous. He therefore felt that, as a stranger, he was better able to speak of their appreciation of the hospitality they had received in Reading.

Mr. Councillor Rawson seconded. He thought that few meetings of the Association had been on the whole more successful and more pleasant than the present one, which they were now concluding with

expressions of gratitude to all those who had made the arrangements for their comfort and success. They were very grateful indeed to the Chairman and officers of the Free Library for their extreme kindness and hospitality.

The motion was carried with acclamation.

Mr. W. Lane Joynt proposed—

“That the most cordial thanks of this Association be tendered to the chairman and members of the Reception Committee for the generous hospitality displayed by them on the occasion of the Thirteenth Annual Meeting, which will be remembered as one of the most successful and enjoyable on record.”

The Rev. W. D. Macray, in seconding this, said that what he had read of their proceedings had made him regret that he had not been able to be with them before that day. He thought that while they were acknowledging the great kindness they had met with, they recognised at the same time a general feeling that the Association was doing a great work throughout the length and breadth of the land, inasmuch as libraries were the means of instruction and profitable recreation to many to whom it would otherwise be unattainable.

The motion was carried with acclamation.

Mr. Law proposed—

“That the very hearty thanks of the Library Association be accorded to Mr. W. H. Greenhough, honorary local secretary of the Reception Committee of the Thirteenth Annual Meeting, for his untiring services on behalf of the Association, and for the excellent management and power of organization displayed by him in providing for the comfort and accommodation of the members.”

He knew what labour, trouble and care had been exercised by Mr. Greenhough, and they knew all of them with what zeal, courtesy and success it had been done.

Mr. Tedder seconded. They all owed Mr. Greenhough deep gratitude for what he had done for them.

The vote was carried with acclamation.

Mr. Councillor Rawson proposed votes of thanks to the committees of the Wellington and Athenæum Clubs for their courtesy in throwing open these clubs to members; and to Messrs. Huntley and Palmer for allowing members to visit their works.

This was seconded by Major Plant and carried unanimously.

Mr. W. I. Palmer, who was warmly received, proposed a vote of thanks to the President for having presided so ably over their meetings. His address had given a good tone to their meetings, and he felt sure that so long as they had at their head a gentleman so eminent as their President there was no chance of the Association losing its influence and position.

Mr. Mullins, in seconding, said the members of the Association might congratulate themselves that the favour and assistance of the authorities of the British Museum continued with them. They began with Mr. Winter Jones, who stood by them in their earlier years; later on they had his successor Mr. Bond; and now they had Mr. Thompson worthily filling the same position. Referring to the success of their present gathering he confessed to have had some misgivings as to a small town inviting them, but he had been agreeably surprised, and felt quite sure that many of the large towns might take some very useful lessons from Reading. The whole thing had surprised some of them, and they had been equally delighted with the town, the reception they had met with, and the President who had presided over them.

The motion was carried with acclamation.

The President, who was most warmly received, expressed his appreciation of the vote. He said it had been a very great pleasure to him to



attend these meetings, and to come to what was called a small town. To tell the truth he preferred coming to a small town. His visit to Reading had enabled him to renew delightful acquaintances with old friends.

Mr. Charles Welch proposed a vote of thanks to the Council and Executive for their services during the past year. He expressed satisfaction that this was the thirteenth year of the Association's existence, and a hope that it would continue to flourish for many years to come.

This was seconded, and the vote carried unanimously.

Mr. Tedder briefly acknowledged the vote on behalf of the Council.

The President then announced the result of the election as follows:—

*President.*—To be elected by the Council.

*Vice-Presidents.*—F. T. Barrett, Librarian, Mitchell Library, Glasgow; George Bullen, LL.D., Late Keeper of the Printed Books, British Museum; J. T. Clark, Keeper, Advocates' Library, Edinburgh; Peter Cowell, Librarian, Public Libraries, Liverpool; Richard Garnett, LL.D., Keeper of the Printed Books, British Museum; Robert Harrison, Librarian, London Library; W. Lane Joynt, D.L., Dublin; J. D. Mullins, Librarian, Public Libraries, Birmingham; C. W. Sutton, Librarian, Public Libraries, Manchester; E. C. Thomas, Gray's Inn; Sam Timmins, Member of Birmingham Libraries' Committee; Charles Welch, Guildhall Library.

*Council: London Members.*—J. B. Bailey, J. D. Brown, F. J. Burgoyne, Cecil T. Davis, W. Ralph Douthwaite, L. Inkster, H. E. Poole, J. H. Quinn.

*Council: Country Members.*—W. Archer, Alderman W. H. Bailey, J. Potter Briscoe, H. T. Folkard, W. H. Greenhough, T. G. Law, C. Madeley, W. May, J. J. Ogle, Councillor Harry Rawson, John Taylor, W. H. K. Wright.

*Treasurer.*—H. R. Tedder.

*Hon. Secretaries.*—J. Y. W. MacAlister, Thomas Mason.

*Auditors.*—T. J. Agar, Chartered Accountant; G. R. Humphery.

Mr. Ogle proposed a vote of thanks to Mr. J. Y. W. MacAlister, Hon. Secretary and Editor of *The Library*, explaining that he thought a special vote was due to Mr. MacAlister, because of the prompt way in which that publication had been brought out, and the vigorous way in which the business of the Association had lately been conducted.

Mr. Wright seconded, and expressed a hope that under the new arrangements the business of the Association would continue to be transacted to the benefit of the country members as well as those living nearer London. He urged country members to attend all the meetings of the Council.

Mr. MacAlister briefly returned thanks, and proposed—

“That a committee be appointed to consider the whole question of Library legislation, and to report to the next general meeting, the names to be fixed by the Council.”

Mr. Lane Joynt seconded and the motion was carried.

Mr. MacAlister then said he had a proposition to make which would certainly not be carried this year, but he intended to keep on bringing it forward at each annual meeting that he attended until it was carried. As the hour for adjourning had arrived he would advance no arguments, but simply ask those present to vote. He would move:—

“That the essential necessity of public libraries as an extension of the national system of education being now recognised, the question of establishing libraries should, in the opinion of this Association, be no longer dependent on a popular vote, and that the establishment of a suitable library in every district as defined by the Acts should be compulsory.”

Mr. Humphery seconded.

Mr. Tedder said he really thought they had better adjourn any decision by a vote on this point for at least ten years, until people became a little more educated on the subject. He thought they would be liable to be laughed at if they passed such a resolution.



Mr. Mac Alister said he had not intended to say a word in support of his resolution because of the lateness of the hour, but it was on the understanding that neither would there be any opposition argument. As Mr. Tedder had spoken he would reply. He was well aware of all the objections to his resolution; but he did not think that was any reason why he should be afraid to stand by his convictions. It seemed to him ridiculous that the free library should be the only public institution which depended for its existence on the vote of the people. They had public baths and wash-houses, public parks, and public schools, which the people had to pay for whether they liked them or not. He would admit his proposal would have been a wild one before Forster's Act, but they had now compulsory education; they compelled people to learn to read, and he considered it a cruel thing to create a new want which they refused to supply. Where there were public libraries they were doing good, and the inhabitants were becoming better members of the community: but where such institutions did not exist the people had to depend upon penny dreadfuls and such like trash. It seemed to him that to make free libraries compulsory was the natural and logical outcome of the Education Act.

On being put to the vote there were twenty-nine votes for the resolution and thirty-three against. This brought the proceedings to a close.

Immediately after luncheon a number of carriages arrived at the Town Hall to convey the members to Bearwood, the seat of Mr. John Walter, the proprietor of *The Times*, where the company had an opportunity of inspecting the contents of his valuable picture gallery. From here a pilgrimage was made to Eversley, the home and the death-place of Kingsley. Thronging memories of the great dead teacher filled the minds of all as they saw the mute witnesses of his later life, and the Rev. R. R. Suffield had a keenly sympathetic audience to listen to his eloquent monody on the strong, sweet soul whose happiest hours had been spent on this spot.

#### ASSOCIATION DINNER.

In the evening the members dined together in the Old Town Hall, which was generously placed at the disposal of the Dinner Committee (Messrs. Bailey and Mason) by the Mayor.

The dinner was only decided upon the previous day, and the shortness of the notice prevented the caterer from doing himself justice, but what was wanting in the bill of fare was more than made up for by the geniality of the proceedings and the quality of the speeches. The President put the most discontented of diners in good humour by proposing a series of toasts in his happiest vein. The Mayor, Mr. G. Palmer, Mr. W. I. Palmer, Mr. Alderman Brittain, Mr. Greenhough, Mr. Holborn, Mr. Mullins and Mr. Lane-Joynt made excellent speeches, which we regret our limited space prevents us from reproducing. The last named was especially happy in proposing a rather odd toast to "Bookmakers and Book-keepers." The puzzled expression of the waiters made it pretty clear they were wondering how it came to pass that their worthy Mayor and the Messrs. Palmer could lend their countenance to a party of sporting men, even though for the nonce in the respectable company of "Book-keepers."

Mr. Tedder's reply to this toast must have made the mystery still deeper, abounding as it did in esoteric physiological allusions and analogies. Professor Justin Winsor described at humorous length how he became what he called a "fortuitous librarian."

Mr. W. H. K. Wright, as usual, added greatly to the pleasure of the evening by his singing.

#### SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 20TH.

Of this day, long to be remembered both by those who greeted "our river" as an old friend, and by those who made its acquaintance for the

first time, so excellent an account has been given in *The Reading Observer* of September 27th, and in *The Daily Telegraph* of September 22nd, that we may well be excused if we save our scanty space and direct our readers to these papers for fuller particulars. Four of the best launches on the river conveyed the guests of the local committee, whose ideas of hospitality were throughout the very reverse of Mrs. Gilpin's, who—

“——— though on pleasure she was bent,  
She had a frugal mind.”

The weather was perfect, and all the more enjoyable from the fact that a few threatening drops had fallen just as the launches started. The river was unusually quiet—the result no doubt of the threatening morning shower. Our American visitors, Professor Winsor and his party, who, with the Mayor and Mayoress, and a few others, occupied the smallest launch, were deeply impressed with the peculiar charm of our river scenery, opening new vistas, each with a fresh beauty of its own, at every turn of the sinuous stream.

But the *bête noir* of all organising secretaries—unpunctuality—conspired to spoil Mr. Greenhough's well-laid plans. Little delays at locks, enforced slowings, rapidly stole the time which the programme meant to be spent at Dorchester, and all on board were eagerly scanning the horizon with hungry eyes for a glimpse of the luncheon marquee, when Day's Lock was reached an hour-and-a-half after the time arranged. Of the sumptuous luncheon at Day's Lock, of the marquee which a friendly wind removed, leaving the guests to lunch merrily *al fresco*, of the hurried rush to the Dorchester Dykes and the British earthworks, where, scant of time, the visitors could do but little justice to Dr. Stevens' most interesting account of these antiquities—are not all these things to be found in the papers aforesaid?

We trust the Christian charity of the Rev. Mr. Poyntz will enable him to make allowance for the *apparent* discourtesy which made the hurried visit of a few to the Abbey Church the only return for the pains he had taken to enable the whole party to see and understand the venerable building of which he has charge. Indeed, if fault is to be found, where all was so good, it would be that our hosts were *too lavish*. All through the four days' visit the members found an *embarras de richesse* before them.

On the return journey the party broke up, some hastening forward to catch early trains, while a steadfast remnant determined to complete the programme, and so, down the river to Wallingford, where Mr. J. K. Hedges received the Association at Wallingford Castle, and after regaling his guests with a most welcome afternoon tea in the garden, conducted them over his beautiful grounds, and showed them the ruins of the old Castle. A privileged few were also able to snatch a sight of Mr. D. R. Davies's unique collection of coins and pre-historic relics.

As the launches started from Reading a summer storm burst over the town, and the cabins and awnings of the launches were at a premium. A few brave spirits seemed, however, to prefer fresh air at the risk of a drenching, rather than dry clothes and a stuffy atmosphere. Among these the young Mayoress and her sisters were conspicuous, and presently they had their reward, for the rain cleared off and the rest of the journey down the silent river, when the shadows darkened and the stars came out, was a dream of quiet beauty long to be remembered. Catches of song and happy laughter now and then broke the silence, until tired but happy, the boats reached Caversham Lock, and with cordial handshakings and “good-byes” came to an end the THIRTEENTH ANNUAL MEETING.



## THE EXHIBITION.

An interesting feature of the meeting was the exhibition of library appliances, got together by Mr. Greenhough. The collection included electric lighting appliances, sent by Messrs. Lang, Wharton and Down, the electrical engineers; ventilating and other useful lamps from Messrs. Sugg; the ventilating lamp of the Wenham Company, and examples of their Louvre ventilators. Mr. Cedric Chivers (of Bath) contributed a most interesting exhibit, showing his special style of book-binding, the "Duro-Flexile," from start to finish. Three girls were actively engaged in stitching and other processes, and the attention of visitors was particularly drawn to the careful "overcasting" of broken sections, by which a badly used book can be made almost as strong as ever. It must have surprised many to see the magnificent specimens of finished work displayed by Mr. Chivers, whose name has hitherto been associated with the useful and durable rather than with the beautiful. Several of the volumes exhibited, for beauty and high artistic finish would bear comparison with the best known work, and it must be peculiarly gratifying to a workman of Mr. Chivers' stamp to have earned the warm praise of Mr. Ruskin. Mr. Banting (of Chelsea) also sent examples of his cheap bindings. Some of these are a great improvement on the old styles of library binding, and possess some of the features of the "Duro-Flexile." Mr. Holborn (of Highbury Crescent) sent two very fine examples of rare binding. From Manchester were sent several admirable photographs of the branch libraries. Mr. Jones (of the Kensington libraries) exhibited an excellent model of a good form of periodical rack. Examples of the various forms in use in several public libraries were displayed, including those in use at Reading, Plymouth, and Portsmouth. Mr. Wright (of Plymouth) sent some examples of bookbinding done by his assistants, and some cheap samples of binding were also sent by Mr. Jewers of Portsmouth. Mr. Campbell (of the British Museum) sent a number of most useful boxes, arranged for cataloguing purposes. Messrs. Williams (of Reading), ironmongers, made a good display of brass appliances, useful for both private and public libraries, as well as for home use. Messrs. Fanes (of Reading) made a good show of photographs of local views, including several of the places visited by the Association, including Silchester, Eversley Rectory, Dorchester, Scenes on the river, &c., and also a useful display of the well-known "Marlboro" pamphlet cases. Mr. Humphreys (of Braby's Library), exhibited some excellent specimens of book-rests. Many other articles were displayed useful for library purposes, but our space forbids detailed mention.

## NOTE.

The Editor thinks it desirable to state that the shorthand report of the discussions furnished to him was extremely imperfect, and the names of several speakers were left out altogether. He will be glad to receive important corrections, and will notice them in a list of errata at the end of the volume.

## New Books.

Bloomsbury and St. Giles', past and present; with historical and antiquarian notices of the vicinity. By George Clinch, of the Department of Printed Books, British Museum. London: Truslove and Shirley, 1890. pp. 220.

The parishes of Bloomsbury and St. Giles "contain more features of antiquarian interest, were the scenes of more remarkable incidents in the



history of England, and were the homes of more eminent men and women in the various walks of life than any other place of equal size and equal distance from the heart of London." The contents of the volume amply justify this description. Mr. Clinch deals first with St. Giles-in-the-Fields, and lingers with evident affection over its origin and growth, its parochial institutions, its inns and alehouses, the remarkable characters who have resided within its limits, its charities and hospitals, and above all, Lincoln's and Gray's Inns. Bloomsbury receives equal attention, and perhaps the best piece of work in the whole volume is that which treats of the British Museum. Here the author at once shows himself on familiar ground, and he tells the story carefully and well. The chronological account is followed by a careful analysis of the various departments and their treasures. Mr. Clinch gives a readable account of the celebrated or remarkable characters that have resided in the district, and with a generous impartiality includes in the same list Lord Herbert of Cherbury, Benjamin Franklin, "Isaac Ragg, the bellman," and "Old Jack Norris."

At p. 41 it is stated that Lord Cobham's execution took place near the modern "Horseshoe," in St. Giles' Fields, while Babington, the conspirator, met his death in Lincoln's Inn Fields. Upon this point there has been considerable difference of opinion among competent judges. According to Loftie (vol. ii., p. 205), Babington and probably Lord Cobham were both executed in Lincoln's Inn Fields. Parton lays the scene of both executions in St. Giles' Fields (p. 231). Mr. S. L. Lee, in the *Dictionary of National Biography*, under Babington, quotes from a work entitled, *The Censure of a Loyall Subject* (1587), a passage which states that Babington and Ballard, with five of their companions, were drawn on hurdles "from Tower Hill, through the cittie of London, unto a felde at the upper end of Holborne, hard by the highway side to S. Giles, where was erected a scaffold convenient for the execution." This description seems to fit the locality of Lincoln's Inn Fields in those days quite as well as that of St. Giles-in-the-Fields. If Mr. Clinch has discovered evidence which sets the doubt at rest he should have given his authority. At p. 112 the author is mistaken in stating that Gray's Inn belongs to the Crown, for the Society of Gray's Inn have held their whole estate free from any rent or other payment to the Crown since 1733. We are unable to enumerate the varied contents of the volume, which include much curious literary matter, and occasionally bibliographical work of much interest. A number of illustrations, obtained by the photomezzotype process, and including reproductions of rare engravings in the British Museum, enhance the value of an excellent piece of work.

### Correspondence.

"FOXING."

DEAR SIR,—Could any of your readers oblige with a statement of the cause of, and the means employed to prevent or remedy, "foxing" in books; or, possibly, they could point out references to the subject.

LIBRARIAN.

### Library Association.

THE next monthly meeting will be held at 20, Hanover Square, on Monday, October 13th, at 8.30 p.m. Subject for discussion, "Report of Committee on Statistics of Free Public Libraries."

A meeting of Council will be held the same evening at 7.30.

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Editorial Communications and Books for Review should be addressed to the Editor, 20, Hanover Square, W.—Advertisements and Letters on Business to the Publisher, 62, Paternoster Row, E.C.

## The Literature and Writers of Reading and the District.<sup>1</sup>

THE history of the literature of Reading begins at a very early date, and the writings of some of the abbots and monks who lived in the twelfth century are still preserved. The amount of literary work which was performed in the abbeys of England must have been immense, and Reading possessed one of the most important abbeys in England.

The first Reading author of whom we read is Abbot Hugh, the first abbot of Reading, afterwards Archbishop of Rouen, where he died 1134 A.D. His works are enumerated in Cave's *Historia Literaria*, ii., 220, and include three books on memory, with other little works; *Life of St. Adjutor*; letters against heretics of his own times, and several letters and treatises.

Another Hugh, the eighth abbot, was a famous writer, and is described by Leland as a "skilful divine, from education and diligence in his studies; and that in the course of his reading he produced many elaborate observations upon subjects which were abstruse to inexperienced students. His theological questions are not trivial, but give light to difficult passages of Scripture."

There is a MS. copy of these questions in the Cotton Library. He also wrote a treatise, *De Orthodoxâ fide*, in seven books, together with some letters to Pope Celestine II., and a treatise upon heresies in Brittany, entitled *Super heresibus in Armorico solo natis*.

Robert, the Monk of Reading, who travelled in Spain for mathematical knowledge about 1143, is a well-known character. A certain Dr. Wallis, in his introduction to a treatise on algebra, writes, that Robert of Reading, who travelled in Spain on account of the mathematics, did then translate the Alcoran out of Arabic in Latin, as appears by his epilogue to that translation, and the preface of Petrus Cluniacensis thereunto. Another Robert of Reading, a monk of Westminster, wrote a Chronological History of England from 1299 to 1325, entitled *Chronicon Roberti de Reding* (Harleian MSS., No. 685, 3, fo. 173). Amongst the works of these early times which mark the growth of Papal power in England, we may mention those of William

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<sup>1</sup> Read at the Annual Meeting of the Library Association, Reading, 1890.

Boteler, a Franciscan monk, *De indulgentiis pontificum, Lecturæ super Magistrum Sententiarum*, and a MS., *Determinatio*, against translating the Scriptures into the vulgar tongue, which is preserved in the library of Merton College. He lived about 1400, and his latter work may have been directed against Wicliffe's translation of the Bible.

Reading has the distinguished honour of producing the first specimen of another branch of literature—the metrical or poetical kind—and the spring song, “Summer is y-comen in,” written by a monk of Reading Abbey, is said to be the most ancient English song with musical notes attached. 1240 A.D.—

“ Summer is y-comen in,  
 Loud sing Cuckoo ;  
 Groweth seed,  
 And blometh mead  
 And spring’th the wood now :  
 Sing Cuckoo ;  
 Ewe bleateth after lamb,  
 Low’th after calf cow.  
 Bullock starteth,  
 Buck verteth,  
 Merry sing, Cuckoo !  
 Cuckoo, Cuckoo !  
 Well sings thou, Cuckoo !  
 Nor cease thou never now.”

I am now going to make a prodigious claim, and to venture to make mention of the honoured name of the “Father of English Song” in connection with the authors of Reading. No one would be rash enough to declare positively where Geoffrey Chaucer was born; although Leland, the biographer of England’s first great poet, who lived nearest to his time, mentions Berkshire or Oxfordshire as the place of his birth. Chaucer has been compared to Homer, for whose birthplace seven cities contended, and whose descent was traced to the demi-gods. But the reason why I claim the right of including Chaucer in this list is, not merely on account of his frequent visits to this place (being attached to the Court of John of Gaunt, Duke of Lancaster, he would often come to Reading), but on account of his poem, “The Dream,” which describes the wedding of his patron with Blanche of Lancaster, performed within the walls of Reading Abbey. Speght says that “This dream, devised by Chaucer, seemeth to be a covert report of the marriage of John of Gaunt, the King’s son, with Blanche of Lancaster, who after long love (during the time whereof the



poet feigneth them to be dead), were in the end, by the consent of friends, happily married, figured by a bird bringing in his bill an herb, which restored them to life again." This wedding took place at Reading, May, 1359. The three months' feast and grand tournaments were celebrated on a great plain, under a wood, in a campaign, betwixt a river and a well, which probably describes the situation of the King's Mead.

John Latterbury (or Lattebiry) was a Franciscan of much learning. He wrote a valuable Commentary on the Lamentations of Jeremiah, which was completed in 1410, and the MS. preserved in the Merton Library. It was printed in 1482, and there is a copy in the library at Westminster Abbey, also at St. John's College, Oxford. This must have been one of the earliest books printed in this country. Two years after the fall of Constantinople in 1453, Guttenburg and Faust completed the first printed book. The sack of Mayence in 1462 by Archbishop Adolphus dispersed the printers, and with them the secrets of their craft, and in the year 1474 the first publication of William Caxton appeared in England. Hence this book of John Latterbury, printed in 1482, comes very early in the history of English printed works. He wrote also an Explanation of the Psalms, a work on the Acts of the Apostles, and others,<sup>1</sup> some of which he bequeathed to the Friary at Reading.

The last author of Monastic Reading whom I will mention, is John Holyman, described by the last Abbot Hugh as a man "whose life as well as his writings proved him to be an eminent divine, and who lately preached at St. Paul's to a crowded audience, with such distinguished respect and admiration, that no sincere preacher of the Gospel was ever received with greater affection and applause by the inhabitants of that city." His life was a remarkable one, but upon that we may not dwell. He was made Bishop of Bristol, and wrote a treatise against Luther, and a defence of the validity of the marriage of Queen Catherine with Henry VIII., both in Latin.

The dissolution of the Abbey soon came, and with it the dissipation and partial destruction of the Library, which contained the labours of so many generations of Monastic writers, and which would have been so invaluable to future historians.

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<sup>1</sup> *Distinctiones Theologiæ ; Lectiones Scripturarum ; Conciones variæ ; Alphabetum Morale ; Lecturæ Morales ; De Cuxuriâ Clericorum ; Loci Communes ;* and *A Commentary on the Prophecies of Jeremiah.*

Some of the MSS. were saved from the wreck. In the Wollascot MSS. there is a catalogue of the works which the library contained in the reign of Henry III., and several of the MSS. are now in the British Museum.

There is one other work which belongs to this period, and preceded the dissolution of the Abbey, being inscribed as follows: "To the Reverende Father in God, and his singuler good lorde, the lorde Hugh Faryngton, Abbot of Redynge, his pore client and perpetuall servaunt, Leonard Cockes, desyreth longe and prosperous lyfe, with encrease of honour." It is a very rare book, entitled, *The Art or Crafte of Rhetoryke*, and written by Leonard Cockes, one of the masters of Reading School. The subject is divided into four parts—*Invention*, *Judgment*, *Disposition* and *Eloquence in Speaking*; but only one part has come down to us, that on *Invention*, "which is the chief point" (according to our author), "belonging to a Rhetorician, and which is more difficult than the other iij., so that it ones had, there is no great maistry to come by the residue." He purposes subsequently to "Assay himselfe in ye other parte, and so make and accomplish ye hole werk." The book was printed "in London in Fletestrete, by Saynt Dunstone's Chyrche, at the sygne of the George by me Robert Redman. The year of our lorde God, a thousand, five hundred and two and thyrty. Cum privilegio." It is refreshing to find the old schoolmaster busy with his "Rhetoryke," and calmly pursuing his studies upon abstract questions when most men's minds were in confusion and unrest, and the era of great political and religious change had dawned.

Mr. Cockes' grammatical tastes were shown in his *Commentaries on William Lilly's Construction of the eight parts of Speech*.

The progress of the use of the English language in regard to Holy Scripture, and the irresistible longing of the inhabitants of this country to have the Word of God in a tongue "understanded of the people," are evident in many writings of this period. Although Mr. Cockes was of opinion that it was owing to negligence or "else fals persuacions" that the people were put to the learning of other sciences or ever they have attayned any meane knowledge of the Latin tongue, he hearkened to the popular cry for English books on Holy Scripture, and translated *The Paraphrase of S. Paul's epistle to Titus*, written by his friend Erasmus, into English.

The troublous times which followed were not conducive to much literary production, although we find Leland, the great



historian, writing his *Itinerary* and his *Cygnea Cantio* (1546). This latter may be claimed as a Reading book, or a book about Reading, as it contains a very accurate description of the town. Men's minds were too much occupied with religious questions, and the appeal was not to the press but to the fire and stake. They were literally burning questions, and Reading can boast of one who suffered for conscience' sake—Joceline or Julines Palmer. He was one of the masters of Reading School, and was betrayed to his enemies by a Thomas Thackham, who coveted his post, and afterwards succeeded him. Thackham was attacked in the first edition of *Foxe's Book of Martyrs*, and the controversy which arose is preserved in Strype's *Ecclesiastical Memorials*, vol. iii.

It was not until the reign of the Virgin Queen that a feeling of security was restored to the nation, and literature began to flourish again.

I may notice here a very curious and almost unique book, the date of which is uncertain, but it must have been printed earlier than 1600. The title is *The History of Thomas, of Reading, or the six worthy Yoemen of the West*, and the author was a certain Thomas Deloney, a famous ballad-maker of his day, who wrote also *The Garland of Goodwill*, a poetical collection of local tales and historical ditties. He lived during the age of the development of the Elizabethan drama, and was associated with some of the original actors of Shakespeare's plays. It is recorded that he had a quarrel with Kemp, one of the players. His book contains a mixture of historical fact and fictitious narrative, very similar to the historical novels of modern times. Coates speaks very slightly of the author, and calls his work "the fabulous and childish penny history, called Thomas, of Reading;" but that criticism seems rather too severe. At any rate, other people thought differently of the work, for it was edited in 1632 for the sixth time, corrected and enlarged. In the Roxburgh sale one copy of the edition of 1636 was sold for £5 15s. 6d. It was reprinted in 1857. The hero is a certain Thomas Cole, a rich clothier, of Reading, who lived in the time of Henry I. My readers will be glad to hear that the six worthy yeoman all came to a good end; all grew wealthy; the King loved them, and before his death expressed a wish to be "buried among those good clothiers who living were his heart's comfort."<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> I have serious doubts whether there were any clothiers in Reading in Henry I.'s time.



I now come to an important work by a learned writer, John Blagrave. In 1585 he published the *Mathematical Jewel, Margarita Mathematica, per Joannem Blagravum, Readigensem, conditum, editum et sculptum*. This wonderful instrument, of which a representation is given at the beginning of the work, is thus described by its inventor: "It performeth with wonderful dexteritie whatsoever is to be done by Quadrant, Ship, Circle, Cylinder, Ring, Dyall, Horoscope, Sphere and Globe. The use of the Jewel is so abundant and ample that it leadeth any man practising thereupon, the direct pathway through the whole arts of astronomy, cosmography, geography, topography, navigation, longitude of regions, &c., with great and incredible speede, plainenesse, facilities and pleasure, by John Blagrave, of Reading, gentleman and well-wisher to the mathematickes, who hath cut all the prints or pictures of the whole work with his own hands." Folio ed. "imprinted at London by Walter Verge, dwelling in Fleet lane, over against the Maidenhead. 1585." The writer was probably unknown before the publication of this his earliest work, as we may conclude from some original verses in the preface, which mark the author as a good mathematician, but a very indifferent poet. He writes:—

"And London laughs to think she scarce doth know his face.  
How comes he then to link with Vranes worthy grace?  
No wight I see puts forth his pen my needles praise to paint,  
But even alone a countrie drone I stand in this constraint."

He tells us how much time he spent in measuring land, platting, and surveying and, as Mr. Granger observes, "this excellent mathematician did not pursue phantoms, but reduced his speculations to practice, his friends, his neighbours, and the public reaping the fruits of his studies." He also published *Baculum Familiare Catholicon sive generale*. A book of a Staffe, newly invented by the author, called the Familiar Staffe: as well as that it can be made familiarlie to walk with, as for that it performeth the geometrical mensurations. Newlie compiled, and at this time published for the speciall helpe of shooting in great ordinance, and may as well be employed for measuring land." By John Blagrave, gent, 1590 (4to). Also, in 1609, his last work (Anthony Wood supposes that he wrote several others, which were lost), was published, entitled, *The Art of Dialling*, in two parts. London, 1609 (4to).

William Burton, vicar of S. Giles, may be mentioned as the author of an *Exposition on the Lord's Prayer*. He is described

as a Minister of the Word at Reading. The work was published in 1594, and dedicated to Robert, Earl of Essex. I may mention also another writer of this period, who rejoiced in the name of John Smith. He published the *Doctrine of Prayer*. London, 1595. 4to. And perhaps some others; but Anthony Wood quaintly observes, "It is a difficult matter to distinguish his works from others of both his name and time." Evidently the name of John Smith does not conduce to an author's immortality!

At the beginning of the reign of King James I., Reading possessed a distinguished theologian in the person of John Denison, D.D., who was successively the vicar of the three old parish churches of this town—S. Laurence's, 1603; S. Giles', 1612; S. Mary's, 1614. His book, entitled, *A three-fold resolution necessary to Salvation*, describing Earth's vanity, Hell's Horror and Heaven's felicity, published in London, in 1616, ran through five editions. He opposed the great Roman Catholic writer, Cardinal Bellarmine, on the subject of Auricular Confession, in a work entitled, *De Confession Auricularis vanitate adversus Cardinalis Bellarmini Sophismata*. Oxon, 1621. His work on the *Justification of kneeling at the Sacrament* (London, 1619), shows the growth of some of the Puritan ideas, which increased so rapidly during the succeeding reign.

This seems to have been an age for theology, and another very learned and scholarly divine, Thomas Taylor, who was called the "illuminated doctor," brother of Theophilus Taylor, vicar of S. Lawrence's, frequently resided and wrote in Reading. I will only mention one of his works (a copy of which is in the Library), entitled, *The Parable of the Sower and the Seed*, declaring in foure severall grounds, among other things—

- (1) How farre an Hypocrite may goe in the way towards Heaven, and wherein the sound Christian goeth before him, and
- (2) In the last and best ground, largely discourseth of a good heart, describing by very many signs of it, digested into a familiar method; which of itselfe is an entire treatise. And also
- (3) From the constant fruit of the good ground justifieth the doctrine of the Perseverance of Saints, oppugneth the fifth article of the late Arminians; and shortly and plainly answereth their most colourable arguments and evasions. Sold at the signe of the Gilded Cup, in Goldsmith's Rowe, in Cheapside, 1621.



The writer was evidently a Calvinist. The following part of the dedication to the Mayor and Corporation, and others, may be interesting to Reading men as a description of the prosperous state of the town in the reign of James I. :—

“And as this famous towne, for pleasant situation and rich commodities, for prudent government and civill state, but especially for the plentiful means of knowledge and grace, is as a light set up in a candlestick, as a tower on the top of an hill, and a beacon to the whole countrie; so your godly care may be so much the more to walk worthy your great privileges. I praise God to see the house of God so frequented, and yourselves can confesse how He hath been a good paymaster already, for some good affections this way in much increase added of late years to the outward estate both of your public corporation and many private persons.”

At this period the minds of the people of this country were completely engrossed with religious and political questions; and this is reflected to an appreciable extent in the literature of this town; until at length conflict of argument was blended with conflict of bodily force, and above the tumult of civil war arose the voices of the leaders in the war of thought. First we find Dr. Page, master of Reading School in 1628, a follower of Archbishop Laud, then Bishop of London, publishing a *Treatise in defence of bowing at the name of the Lord*, which was opposed by one party, and supported by Laud, it being in defence of a canon of the Church, and at the King's desire.

Archbishop Laud's connection with this town is well known, and his memory still revered. With his melancholy history and character we do not concern ourselves now, and it is only as an author that I am permitted to speak of him. His literary productions were not voluminous; the troublous times in which he lived, and the leading part he was called upon to take, doubtless prevented him from producing much. But he was a great patron of learning, and his enemies have said that *his will was the best thing he ever wrote!* However, his conferences with Fisher, the Jesuit, published in 1639, are some of the ablest of our controversial theology. Also his sermons, remains, diary and the history of his troubles and trial, edited by H. Wharton, were first published in 1695, in two vols. The number of pamphlets which were issued about the time of his death is amazing, and bear the pleasing titles of the *Great Impostor Unmasked*, a *Magazine of Scandall of two Infamous Ministers*,



*England's Rejoicing in the Prelate's Downfall*, &c. One hundred and twenty-two of these tracts were collected in three vols in 1691. One writer is ingenious in endeavouring to prove that Archbishop Laud corresponded to the "beast" in Rev. viii. and xv., "not the great beast (=Pope), but another, yet a very beast." He makes the numbers in Laud's name correspond to the mystical 666.

W = 2	V =	...	...	...	...	10
I	,	...	...	...	...	1
LL	,	2 x 50 =	...	...	...	100
L	,	...	...	...	...	50
A	,	no numerical No.	...	...	...	
V	,	...	...	...	...	5
D	,	...	...	...	...	500

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= Grand total ... 666

I cannot refrain from mentioning one pamphlet, which I take to be genuine, a petition presented to Parliament by Laud from the Tower of London, wherein he desires that he may not be transported beyond seas into New England, in regard to his extraordinary age and weakness. "His intentions were not to make an innovation of religion, but to work such a conformation and likeness in both, that Her Majesty's opinion might be drawn on, and induced to embrace Truth, holding thereby to be a speedy means of Her Majesty's conversion. Their differences were not fundamental, and of faith, and he desired union and comprehension." There is something very pathetic in his prayer, "not to suffer your petitioner to be transported, to endure hazard of seas, and long tediousness of voyage into those transmarine parts, and cold countries, which would soon bring your petitioner's life to a period." He was apparently unconscious of the worse fate which awaited him.

In 1642 the civil war breaks out. We find Dr. Wilde, vicar of St. Giles', preaching before the King at Oxford, and writing two comedies, which were acted before the Court in St. John's College Hall, *The Hospital of Lovers*, and *Hermophus, a comedy in Latin*.

Then we have a Presbyterian vicar of St. Lawrence's Thomas Gilbert, who lived to a good old age, and wrote a poem, called *England's Passing Bell*, written after the year of the Plague, the Fire of London, and the Dutch War, 1675. Also at ninety years of age he wrote (English title) *A Gratu-*

*latory Poem on the auspicious descent of King William into Ireland, and on his safe return from Ireland.* This must have been published after the Battle of the Boyne in 1690.

But Mr. Gilbert's long life has carried us past the troublous period of the Commonwealth, and we must retrace our steps. While the tumults of war were heard on all sides there was one learned man and noted antiquary who was quietly pursuing his studies, and making his collections, as if he were quite unconscious of the confusion around him. I refer to Elias Ashmole, who is connected with Reading through his wife, the daughter of William Foster, Recorder of Reading. Although his wife gave him the honour of being included amongst Reading authors, she did not give him much pleasure in other ways, and I believe Mr. Ashmole was forced to add many *matrimonial jars* to his collection of other antique ware! He made his name and reputation by his *Theatrum Chemicum Britannicum*, published in 1652. Also he wrote *Chemical Collections, expressing the Progress of secret Hermitic Science*, in 1654; also *Institution, Laws and Ceremonies of the Noble Order of the Garter*, 1672. No one can be wise at all times, and Mr. Ashmole wrote a book in 1660, called *The Way of Bliss*, to prove the possibility of finding the philosopher's stone. As the founder of the museum which bears his name, and one of our foremost antiquarians, Elias Ashmole will be remembered. He wrote a work on *The Antiquities of Berks* in three volumes, a copy of which is in the Reading Library.

Another Puritan vicar of St. Lawrence's, who was appointed in 1651, was a prolific writer, and produced *The Spirit of Bondage and Adoption*, largely and practically handled by Simon Ford, B.D., minister of Gospel at Reading, 1655. Like many others of that time, he seems to have trimmed his sails according to the wind; for in spite of his Puritan tendencies, at the Restoration he wrote *A Panegyrick on Charles I.*; also some sermons *On the King's Return*, London, 1660; *The Loyal Subject's Indignation*; *The Lord's Wonders in the Deep, on the Duke of York's Victory against the Dutch*, 1665; and in 1688 he published *A New Version of the Psalms of David*. Dr. Ford was probably a half-hearted Puritan; he belonged to that curious race of beings—political parsons, and, living so near, had doubtless heard of his neighbour, the Vicar of Bray.

The vicar of St. Mary's, Christopher Fowler, was a thorough-going Roundhead; as is declared by his work *Dæ-*



*monium Meridinaum, or Satan at Noon*, dedicated to his Highness, Oliver, Lord Protector of England, Scotland, Ireland and the dominions thereto belonging, 1655. This work was directed against Dr. Pordage, vicar of St. Lawrence, the author of a pamphlet, *The Case of Reading Rightly Stated*, which according to Fowler, was "blasphemous and unclean." You will observe that controversialists in those days did not mince words. They called a spade a spade, if they did not apply to it a more opprobrious epithet. This Dr. Pordage asserted that he had sensible communion with spirits, that he fought with a fiery dragon, that a coach drawn by fiery tigers and lions attacked his chimney and could not be dislodged till it was dug out with pickaxes.

I may mention here William Creed, a Royalist and eminent divine and scholastic disputant, a Fellow of St. John's and Professor of University. He wrote a book entitled *The Refuter Refuted*.

The works of another member of the family of Blagrave, Joseph Blagrave, a great enthusiast in astrological studies, are worthy of record. He wrote a work entitled *An Introduction to Astrology*, which was published after his death by Obadiah Blagrave in 1662, and dedicated to Elias Ashmoule, "eminently accomplished in all ingenious literature." The work shows very clearly some of the absurdities and pretensions of astrology, and professes to contain the life of an Ephemeris, and how to erect a figure of heaven at any time proposed, also significations of the houses, planets, signs and aspects, with plain and familiar instructions for the resolution of all manner of questions, whereby you are enabled to chuse such times as are proper and conducive to the perfection of any matter of business whatsoever. Also an absolute method for rectifying and judging nativities, the significations of portents, and directions with new and experienced rules touching revolutions and transits.

I will refer now to another work by the same author, Joseph Blagrave, his *Astrological Practise of Physick*, discovering the true way to cure all kinds of diseases and infirmities which are naturally incident to the body of man, being performed by such herbs and plants which grow within our own nation, directing the way to distil and extract their virtues, and making up medicines; also a discovery of some notable secrets worthy our knowledge, relating to a discovery of all kinds of evil, whether natural or such which comes from sorcery or witchcraft, or by



being possessed by an evil spirit, directing how to cast forth said evil spirit out of anyone possessed, with sundry examples thereof, 1671.

I have recently met with another work by this same author, Joseph Blagrove, published in 1675: *Epitome of the Art of Husbandry, comprising all things necessary for the Improvement of it*. It discourses of Ploughing, Sowing, Grafting, Gardening, Ordering of Flowers and Herbs, Bees; and also of Gentlemen's Heroic Exercise (Riding), Horses, Cows, Sheep, Hogs—their natures, uses, diseases and remedies."

Our next author is one of whom any town ought to be proud—Dr. Lloyd, vicar of St. Mary's, and afterwards Bishop of St. Asaph, one of the seven Bishops who were committed to the tower for opposing James II. He published several "seasonable discourses" in support of the national religion; several sermons, which were preached before Charles II., James II., and William and Mary; several incomplete works on chronology and Biblical subjects; and we are indirectly indebted to him for two important works, *Pole's Synopsis* a most valuable and stupendous commentary, and also Bishop Burnett's *History of the Reformation*, a standard history, in which work Dr. Lloyd helped considerably. Both these books were undertaken on the advice and with the assistance of Bishop Lloyd. From Swift's letters we find that the poor Bishop, who lived till he was ninety, became weak-minded in his old age, as the writer states "that he went to Queen Anne to prove to her Majesty from Scripture that in four years there would be a war of religion, that the King of France would be 'Protestant, and the Pope-dom destroyed.'"

There was also a William Lloyd, Bishop of Worcester, born at Tilehurst, author of a valuable historical work on the early British Church. Also Simon Lowth, vicar of Tilehurst, 1662, was the author of the ablest manuals of Catechesis ever written.

We come now to a work which marks the intolerance in religious matters which prevailed in the reign of the "Merry Monarch." The victim was Joseph Coale, who belonged to the Society of Friends, and was imprisoned for refusing to take the oath of allegiance, and died in gaol 1670. The book is entitled *Some Account of the Life and Sufferings of Joseph Coale, collected out of his Writings, who after six years' imprisonment in Reading Gaol, died a prisoner for his Christian testimony*. It appears that he did not refuse to acknowledge the King's authority, but he

refused to *swear* allegiance. The book was published in 1706, and is dedicated to the Friends of Truth at Reading, to the children of light in the West, and in the Fleet end of the parish of Mortimer. Wales and Cornwall seem to have been strongholds of Quakerism.

At the commencement of the eighteenth century we find two eloquent and able authors in the persons of the vicars of St. Mary's: William Reeves, who preached and published a famous sermon *On the Fatal Consequences of Bribery* at the time of an election, which had such an effect that many returned the bribes which they had received and voted another way; also *The Apologies of the Fathers* (2 vols.), 1709; and Francis Fox, a well-known writer, who contributed the valuable addition to Biblical literature, *The N. T. Explained* (in two vols.), 1722. There are a large number of references set under the text, together with marginal readings and notes. Several other works were written by the same author.

In 1723 we see the rise of newspaper literature, and welcome the appearance of the first number of the *Reading Mercury*, one of the oldest newspapers in the kingdom. It was called the *Reading Mercury or Weekly Entertainer*, and many generations of Reading citizens have been entertained and enlightened by its columns of news since the year 1723. A reprint of the first number has recently appeared, so I need not describe it; but I may mention that it was started by the energy of Mr. John Watts, one of the leading members of the Corporation, the author in 1749 of the pamphlet with the alarming title, *The Black Scene Opened*, which was an attack upon the Corporation for the mismanagement of the Kendrick Charities.

Essay writers have not been plentiful in Reading, but we find some fair specimens of this kind of literature in a book entitled, *Peregrinations of the Mind through most general and interesting Subjects usually agitated in Life*, by Mr. William Baker, who was born in Reading in 1742. He treats of various subjects, "Happiness," "Love," "War," and there is an interesting essay "On the Stage," answering objections originally suggested by bigotry and prejudice against theatrical amusements. He wrote also *Theses Græcæ Latinæ Selectæ*, in 1780, and several detached poems.

I have been able to find only one book of travels; evidently Reading men are not given to roaming. This is a work in two volumes, by C. Thompson, Esq., on his travels through France,



Italy, Turkey, the Holy Land, Arabia and Egypt. Printed by J. Newbery and C. Micklewright, at the Bible and Crown, in the Market Place, 1744. He seems to have been a very observant gentleman, and puts down his reflections in English plain and unadorned. His reflections upon French cooking are interesting :

“The French are more extravagant in their dress than in their diet. They often keep meat so long before they dress it that Englishmen would think it fit for nothing but the dunghill, and were it not for herbs and high seasoning it would scarce be eatable. The wines are small, but good of their kind, light and easy upon the stomach, and give little disturbance to the brain.”

I find next a contribution to historical studies, viz., *An Historical Review of the Transactions of Europe from the commencement of the war with Spain in 1739 to the Insurrection in Scotland in 1745*,” by Samuel Boyse, M.A. Two volumes. Printed by D. Henry, Friar Street, 1747. Our author certainly chose very stirring times for his history, which describes the “War of Austrian Succession,” the Battle of Dettingen (the last occasion when an English King, George II., commanded his army in person), and the Seven Years’ War. He also wrote some miscellaneous works, serious and humorous, in verse and prose, designed for the amusement of the fair sex at Reading (1740). There is good sense in his reflections on private defamation, occasioned by a visit to my Lady Tattle, on which occasion ten thousand characters were torn in pieces, the reputation of whole families havocked with a general massacre.

But we must leave Mr. Boyse and his various studies, and pass on to the poetical labours of Mary Latter. Poets have not been very plentiful in Reading, but there are a few who would aspire to the title. There are two MS. plays by Thomas Singleton, which were acted at Hoxton Wells in 1688. A few other occasional poets of the Ponderous School have been noticed. A witty vicar of St. Lawrence’s, Dr. Phanuel Bacon, who had a strong liking for puns, wrote, “The Kite” in 1719; five dramatic pieces, published together in one volume, called *Humorous Ethics*, and was the author of a ballad called *The Snipe*, which has been pronounced one of the best ballads in the English language. It has been preserved in the Oxford Sausage, a delicacy of which I have not been able to taste. In 1715 was born Richard Cole, otherwise known as Poet Cole, who lived in St. Mary’s Butts, and wrote some poems of a serious and religious nature.



But Mary Latter seems to have been the first voluminous poet. I have read some of her productions, but have not been much impressed by her great talent. I will take as a specimen of her works, her *Siege of Jerusalem, by Titus Vespasian, a Tragedy*. It was rejected by several managers of theatres, and when I read the following "poetry" you will not be surprised :

"As General of the Army I demand  
On what pretences you presume to ask  
The favour and protection of the Romans?  
I need not say the vices of your people  
Compel me to proceed with care and caution,  
And I forbear extending my protection  
To fugitives, till I am first assured  
No artifice, no treachery, or deceit  
Lurks under their appearance of submission."  
Etc., etc., etc.

This was published in 1762, with a long essay by R. Cole, of Reading, on the mystery and mischief of stage craft, abusing the managers roundly for daring to reject this precious play, and defending it from certain criticisms which had been passed upon it. One is very sorry for the poor lady, who describes herself as being "immersed in business and in debt, sometimes madly hoping to gain a competency, sometimes justly fearing dungeons and distress." She published her miscellaneous works in prose and verse, and some other productions of her pen.

At the commencement of one of these books I find this spirited defiance of all critics :

"Let 'em censure, what care I,  
The herd of critics I defy :  
Let the wretches know I write  
Regardless of their grace or spite."

Of the great scholar, divine and Christian poet, James Merrick, Reading may be justly proud. It would take too long to record fully his works, which cover a wide range of literature, and I will content myself with referring to two of his best known works—*The Psalms in English Verse*, published by J. Carnan & Co., of Reading (1765), and his *Annotations on the Psalms*, in 1768, by the same publishers. In the latter work the great learning and scholarship of the author are fully called into play. He shows how some of the Greek poets copied from the Hebrew Psalms; for example, Callimachus' hymn in celebrating Appollo's approach to his temple is almost word for word the same as Psalm xxiv., "Lift up your heads, O ye

gates," &c., which describes the entrance of the ark into Jerusalem. Although Mr. Merrick's version of the Psalms has received much praise, and however useful it may be as a commentary, I do not consider that it marks the author as a distinguished poet. I will give two examples of his style :

" O, how blest the man whose ear  
 Impious counsel shuns to hear,  
 Who nor loves to tread the way  
 Where the sons of folly stray,  
 Nor their frantic mirth to share  
 Seated in Derision's Chair."

Or again :

" A race by God unblest who rear  
 A fruitless toil sustain :  
 If God to shield the town forbear  
 The watchman wakes in vain."

There is another work of vast utility of which Reading may also be proud to claim the author—I refer to *Lempriere's Classical Dictionary*, a work of world-wide reputation, and which first saw the light in Reading (by Reading publishers) in 1788. Lempriere was a master at the Reading School.

Maria Edgeworth, the great novelist and friend of Sir W. Scott, was born in Reading in 1767, but spent the greater part of her life in Ireland. Her father, Richard Edgeworth, lived some time at Hare Hatch, whose autobiography and memoirs were published by his accomplished daughter.

St. Giles' possessed a distinguished divine in 1775 in the person of William Cadogan, who published several sermons; and his life was written by Richard Cecil, and published in 1798. Judge Talfourd speaks of him as "Mild charity's unspotted priest."

Dr. Valpy is a well-known author, and Valpy's *Delectus* a well-known work, which is not always received with that veneration and gratitude by youthful Latin scholars which one might expect. Besides school books he wrote a *Course of Nature urged on Principles of Analogy* (1839), *Poetical Chronology of Ancient and English History*, *Principia Historiæ Naturalis*, etc. Under his editorship some poems, odes, prologues and epilogues, spoken on public occasions at Reading School, were published in London in 1804. The last two lines of one of these are admirable :

" Her willing ensigns kind applause shall wave,  
 And Oxford weave the wreath which Reading gave."

At the beginning of this century we find a distinguished historian and scholar at St. Mary's in the person of Dr. Milman, afterwards Dean Milman. In the study at the vicarage his *History of the Jews* was written. His Bampton Lectures were published in Reading. He is the author of that beautiful hymn, which has often been so ruthlessly mutilated, "When our heads are bowed with woe," of the "Martyr of Antioch," and other poems.

We must not pass over another eminent literary vicar of St. Mary's at the beginning of the century—Archdeacon Nares, who was the founder of and chief contributor to the *British Critic*, and the author of *Elements of Orthœpy* (1784), a systematic, perspicuous and most useful work; he wrote also some discourses and essays, and a *Glossary of Words, Phrases, Names and Allusions to Customs and Proverbs*—an excellent work, published in 1822.

Our great local historian, Charles Coates, whose *History and Antiquities of Reading*, published in 1802, is so invaluable, must be mentioned. It is far superior to any other history of the town, and is a great contrast to Man's *History*, which is poor, unreliable and full of silly conjecture.

In illustrative literature, as early as 1791, a book containing eight excellent engravings of Reading Abbey, by C. Tomkins, was published; and admirers of good printing and engraving will respect the name of John Snare, who published six numbers of his *Environs of Reading*, edited by J. G. Robertson. The paper, type and illustrations are quite perfect, and are as good as can be found before the days of *Harper's Magazine*. Snare wrote the *History and Pedigree of a Portrait of Charles I.*, painted by Velasquez in 1623, which the author claimed to have in his possession.

Another mathematical writer appears on the scene in the person of Francis Reynard, the master of the Mathematical, French and Commercial School, Reading. He wrote a book called *Geometria Legitima, or the Elementary System of Theoretical Geometry*. From a brief examination of its contents I think it may be shortly described as Euclid spoilt.

In Hearne's MS. Diaries in the Bodleian Library there is an account of a visit to Reading and Silchester, published in *Letters to Eminent Persons* in 1813.

The following may be interesting to Reading men:—"I took two vols. of *Leland's Itinerary*, and found it very exact.



Reading is very pleasantly situated; nothing near so famous now for its clothing as it was formerly. The houses are mean, streets broad and unpaved. The houses are owned principally by Mr. Blgrave, and his interest in them being only for lives, there is no likelihood of their being rebuilt."

In the year 1810 a book appeared from the press of Messrs. Snare and Man, which made considerable impression on the minds of the people of this town, and touched severely some of their weak points. I refer to *The Stranger in Reading*, a series of letters from a traveller to his friend in London. I do not think that the identity of the "Stranger" has ever been discovered; and perhaps it was as well for him that he remained *incognito*, or he might have suffered severely at the hands of the enraged townspeople. Amongst other playful reflections upon the state of the roads, the incapacity of corporations, &c., he remarked that he agrees with a traveller, who, after residing at Reading for a few days, said "that the further he travelled westward the more he was convinced that the *wise men must have come from the East!*" He gives a sketch of the literature of Reading; but you will gather from the following statement that his remarks are not always to be depended upon:—"The soil of Reading has not been very productive of men of genius, and the few names here recorded have added very little to the general stock of literature of the country." He rightly mentions that Robert Grossetete (*Anglicè*, Thickhead), Bishop of Lincoln, was consecrated here in 1235: but adds the spiteful remark that "the family of Thickhead must have been originally numerous, as many of their *descendants* are still to be found in various parts of the town."

He concludes his sketch by a tribute of praise to Mr. Le Noir, who published several poems and prose works in 1825, among which were *Village Anecdotes* (three vols.); and to Miss M. R. Mitford, who, in the words of the "Stranger," "is a young lady of great poetical talents, whose purity of sentiment and elegance of diction are equal to those of our best poets, while she excels most of them in the chastity of her style, and the harmony of her verse." For *once* the "Stranger" appears to have been right in his judgment.

The works of this distinguished authoress are too well known to require enumeration or comment, but one of her novels ought to be mentioned, and that is *Belford Regis, or Sketches of a Country Town*.

Belford Regis is none other than Reading itself. In the preface Miss Mitford states that the descriptions of the scenery of Belford Regis are taken from that "picturesque and interesting town with which she is so well acquainted, but that the inhabitants of Belford Regis exist only in these pages, and if any persons who after this protest shall obstinately persist in mistaking for fact that which the author herself declares to be fiction, I can only compare them to the sagacious gentleman, mentioned in the *Spectator*, who, upon reading the *Whole Duty of Man*, wrote the names of different people in the village where he lived at the side of every sin mentioned by the author, and turned the whole of that devout and pious treatise into a libel."

With Miss Mitford is connected another Reading author of renown, Sir Thomas N. Talfourd, D.C.L., one of the judges of the Court of Common Pleas, an accomplished orator, lawyer and poet. His great work was an English version of the *Ion* of Euripides, which was performed at Covent Garden, and achieved a marked success. He wrote also *Vacation Rambles*, *The Castilian*, *The Athenian Captive*, a tragedy, and *Glencoe*, a tragedy, and *Memorials of Charles Lamb*. He was a true poet; his memory still lives amongst us, and is held in veneration by all who knew him.

Dr. Doran must be included among the historians of Reading, and published an admirable history of the town in 1835. Poetry is not quite a forgotten art. Mr. George W. Edginton translated *Homer's Odyssey* into blank verse in two volumes, dedicated to the Earl of Derby, and published in 1869. It is a work of great merit, and shows the wonderful perseverance of the author, a Reading tradesman, who translated the whole of the *Odyssey* into English hexameters, and then re-translated it into blank verse.

Dr. Stevens has contributed numerous antiquarian and geological records to the literature of Reading, and his recent volume on *The History of St. Mary Bourne* is a standard work on the topography of Hants, a model of what a village history ought to be. The Rev. C. Kerry's *History of St. Lawrence's Church, Reading*, is one of the most complete histories of a parish church ever published.

The royal county has produced many noted writers besides those who are connected with this historical town. The parents of Pope retired from Lombard Street to Binfield in 1684, and the earliest poems of the great poet were written in a favourite



grove under a tree, upon which Lady Gower, an admirer of the poet, caused the words "Here Pope sung" to be cut in large letters in the bark. Pope speaks of his Binfield home as—

" My paternal cell,  
A little house with trees arow,  
And, like its master, very low."

He found a good friend in Sir William Trumball, of East-hampstead, who aided the budding poet, and whose son's tutor, Fenton, helped considerably in writing *Pope's Odyssey*.

Day, the author of *Sandford and Merton*, sleeps in Wargrave Churchyard. I ought not to pass over the great Bishop Butler, who was born at Wantage in 1622, one of the greatest divines of the English Church. I have often visited the room in which he was born.

The honoured name of Charles Kingsley is associated with this neighbourhood, although Eversley is just beyond the borders of our county, but it is almost superfluous to speak of the writings of a man whose works have been read and enjoyed by almost every Englishman.

Amongst living authors the name of the author of *Tom Brown's School Days* will always be remembered. He was born at Uffington, near the "White Horse," whose "scouring" he so lovingly describes in his charming book.

With this name I will conclude my account of Reading books and bookmen. I hope that I have not trespassed too long on your valuable time. I think that this local collection forms the most valuable part of our Public Library, and every librarian will do well to enrich his store of books with the works of local authors, which are so valuable to the historian and the antiquary. I am indebted for much of the information contained in this paper to the valuable collection of local books and pamphlets which the Public Library at Reading possesses. Your "poets' corners" are responsible, I am told, for a great deal of bad local poetry; but a well-stocked local collection is of immense assistance to the students of the past history of your town and neighbourhood.

P. H. DITCHFIELD,  
*Rector of Barkham.*





## On the Ventilation, Heating and Lighting of Free Public Libraries.\*

ONE of the greatest difficulties, perhaps, with which public library authorities have often to contend is the defective ventilation of their libraries and reading rooms, most frequently owing to want of proper thought or oversight on the part of the architect, whose duty it is to make suitable provision for the necessities of ventilation.

The question of ventilation certainly does not appear to receive anything like the consideration due to its importance when buildings are about to be erected for public library purposes. As an instance of this, an architect, under whose superintendence a certain library had been built, stated that he did not consider free libraries required much ventilating, as the people generally using such institutions rarely opened the windows of their houses. Doubtless this absurd suggestion was a mere excuse for not having provided the proper means for the ventilation of this particular library. The public librarian of to-day knows that as the free library is maintained by the public at large, so is it also used and appreciated by all classes of the community. Surely in an institution, one of the primary objects of which is education, filled day by day with large numbers of people perusing the stores of information and knowledge provided for them, it is most necessary that the air to be inhaled should be as pure and wholesome as can be obtained, and not oppressive and loathsome as is too often the case.

Dr. Parkes, in his *Manual of Hygiene*, says, 3,000 cubic feet of fresh air should be provided for a mixed community of people, per head, per hour; and this standard is accepted by most modern sanitarians. <sup>(1)</sup> This amount, however, should be largely increased where gas is used for lighting purposes, if the products of combustion are allowed to pass into the air of respiration, as is generally the case. Wolpert states <sup>(2)</sup>, that for every cubic foot of gas burned 1,800 cubic feet of fresh air should be supplied, in order to properly dilute the products of combustion; and Dr. Parkes remarks that this quantity does not appear too much, seeing that a cubic foot of gas produces about two cubic feet of carbon dioxide, and that sulphur dioxide and other

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NOTE :—*The figures in brackets refer to list of authorities at end of article.*

\* Read at the Annual Meeting of the Library Association, Reading, 1890.

substances may also be found. <sup>(2)</sup> A common gas burner is said to burn about three cubic feet of gas per hour, and to consume ten or twelve feet in an evening of four hours, so that from 18,000 to 21,000 cubic feet of fresh air ought to be introduced for one gas jet alone during the four hours.

Carbonic acid gas is usually considered as an index of the sanitary condition of the air of respiration, from the fact that the percentage of organic impurities increases with the rise in quantity of carbonic acid <sup>(3)</sup>. Dangerous impurities appear generally to be found in the company of carbonic acid gas <sup>(1)</sup>. Professor Ewing states, in his article on ventilation, in the last edition of the *Encyclopædia Britannica*, that carbonic acid is not the only test of vitiation, nor the most injurious impurity. Another criterion of the foulness of close air is the amount of oxidizable organic matter it contains, and another and most valuable one is the number of micro-organisms, especially of bacteria. An habitually close room acts, indeed, as a nursery of micro-organisms which a casual flushing with fresh air will not properly purify, the bad effects of a foul stagnant atmosphere being cumulative.

According to Pettenkofer and Parkes <sup>(2)</sup>, a mixed community of people evolve on the average 0.6 of a cubic foot of carbonic acid per head, per hour; and when the gas is not more than 1.5 to 3 volumes per 1000, headache and vertigo are produced. The smell of organic matter is usually perceptible in a room vitiated by respiration when the carbonic acid amounts to 0.7 per 1000. Organic matter is, however, rendered much stronger to the smell by the humidity of the air than by a rise in temperature, the effect of an increase of 1 per cent. in the humidity being equal to a rise of fully 4 deg. Fahr. in temperature. Dr. de Chaumont states <sup>(1)</sup>, that many of the impurities in the air are not perceptible to the smell at all.

The experiences and researches of various sanitarians <sup>(5)</sup>, point conclusively to the fact, that breathing the vitiated air of respiration has an injurious effect upon health. Dr. Parkes <sup>(2)</sup> remarks, and indeed statistical enquiries on mortality prove beyond doubt, that of the causes of death which are usually in action, impurity of the air is the most important.

When we come to examine the various methods by which good ventilation may be obtained, we find that they are not only most numerous, but also most diverse in character. The chief difficulty in the way of procuring satisfactory ventilation seems



to be one of cost. So-called natural ventilation can be obtained at comparatively small expense, and if the financial question is not allowed to interfere with the matter, ample ventilation may be provided, during all seasons, by artificial means. Artificial or forced ventilation, usually signifies the employment of machinery, in order to move fans or blowers, or other complicated and expensive methods, the consideration of which is, perhaps, somewhat beyond the scope of this paper.

Ventilation is usually divided into two distinct systems, the one termed the upward, and the other the downward plan. In the former mode the currents of fresh air pass from below upward, and in the latter the fresh air proceeds downward. A valuable report upon these two systems was made a few years ago to the House of Representatives at Washington, by Prof. Henry of the Smithsonian Institution, and other competent persons. <sup>(6)</sup> From this document it appears that the upward system is best adapted for large reading rooms, where many of the conditions tend to assist this form of ventilation.

Of the various arrangements by which fresh air may be introduced into libraries and reading rooms one of the most useful is that due to Mr. Tobin, of Leeds, and so generally known under the name of Tobin's tubes. These tubes should be carried as a vertical shaft from the floor to about six or seven feet, but the depth and width may vary to suit any position in which they may be placed. A decided advantage in this method is that the inlets may be fixed in many situations most difficult to reach by other means; and it is certainly most important that inlets should be properly apportioned about the building, in order that an adequate distribution of fresh air may be assured. An excellent way to place the tubes in a reading room, is, when practicable, in a continuous length round the room, against the wall, and with a projection of about two inches, thus forming a kind of dado. An advantage is gained by placing the tubes against an outer wall, as by so doing the fresh air may be brought directly into the tubes, through an opening in the wall. When the tubes are placed in other positions, the air must be carried under the floor, or introduced into the tubes in some either indirect manner. The tops of Tobin's tubes should, of course, be provided with lids or valves, to regulate the amount of fresh air to be admitted.

The "Sherington Valve" is a most useful kind of inlet, but it ought to be placed in an outer wall. In this simple plan the



fresh air passes through a perforated iron plate or brick, and is then directed upwards by a valve, which can be closed when necessary by a balanced weight.

The "Wenham Company" have recently brought out a form of inlet, which acts somewhat in the same manner as the "Sherington Valve," and is considered an improvement upon it. This "Louvre Ventilator," as it is termed, is an admirable method by which fresh air may be introduced into rooms, but, like the "Sherington," it should be fixed in an outer wall to be of much practical use for public library purposes.

A fairly good arrangement of inlets might be provided for an ordinary library and reading room, by a supply of Tobin's tubes, together with some Sherington's valves or "louvre" ventilators, in suitable proportions of each.

Professor Trowbridge, in an article in the *Sanitary Engineer*, advocates the use of steam, or even hot water pipes, as a means of assisting natural ventilation, by placing the pipes at the bases of ventilating flues, in order to produce a draught. Steam pipes appear to have been successfully used for this purpose in the library building of Columbia College, New York.

The experiments of Mr. Tobin (<sup>1</sup>), led him to the conclusion that if proper inlets are provided for the admittance of fresh air, the outlets for the vitiated air may generally be left to take care of themselves. This judgment may or may not be correct, but it is, however, certain that ample provision should be made for inlets, to obviate the necessity for open windows and doors, whereby draughts are caused to the discomfort and danger of the readers in our libraries.

Outlets for the vitiated air are generally fixed very high, the ceiling being considered an excellent place in which to place them. When gas is used for lighting purposes, and is consumed openly in the air, it should, when practicable, be burned directly under the outlets, so that not only the products of combustion may be carried away at once, but also that the heat may be utilised in making the outlets more effectual.

When the vitiated air cannot be taken immediately into the outer atmosphere it should be done by means of pipes or tubes, and a cowl of some description ought to be fixed to the external outlet, to prevent down draughts. According to the researches of the Committee of the Sanitary Institute of Great Britain, of the various sorts of cowls, the best form is that of the common lobster-back. (<sup>2</sup>) When outlets fail to act properly a fan or

archimedean screw, for the purpose of extracting the vitiated air, may sometimes be substituted for the cowl with good results; but during the summer days, when there is little or no movement of the outer air, fans or screws to be of any practical value should be driven by machinery.

There are four methods in vogue for heating or warming libraries and reading rooms, viz., hot water pipes, steam pipes, hot air furnaces and fire grates or stoves. In warming by steam pipes there appears to be some possibility of explosion by the bursting of the boilers, as well as some danger to be apprehended from fire by contact of the pipes with wooden surfaces. <sup>(1)</sup> The use of fire grates or stoves, whether open or closed is, without doubt, wrong. There is not only the danger to which the library itself is exposed by such fires, but it is certainly impossible to give anything like an even distribution of warmth to rooms heated by these means. A further and important objection is, the fact, that some portion of the injurious products of combustion must pass into the air of respiration. The plan of warming libraries by the use of fire grates, bad as it is, seems to be approved of by some authorities, as only recently it was about to be adopted at one of the lately opened libraries in London.

The hot air furnace is another undesirable mode of heating. A certain library in the north of England was warmed by this method some years ago, and perhaps is still so. In that institution the hot air was brought up a flue from a furnace below the floor, and introduced directly into the library through a grating. The noxious gases frequently emanating from this grating were offensive in the highest degree, and had no doubt a most pernicious effect upon the air of respiration. This instance of the evils arising from the use of a hot air furnace does not appear by any means to be exceptional. The fault, it seems, is due to the contraction and expansion of the radiating surface, which loosen the joints of the furnace, and thus permit the gases of combustion to escape into the building with the hot air. <sup>(8)</sup>

The best method, on the whole, for warming libraries and reading rooms is doubtless by means of hot water pipes. The advantages of hot water over steam pipes, for heating purposes appear to be: the cost for fuel is less; there is no danger of explosion; less repairs are required; the temperature in the pipes is maintained six to eight times longer, after the fire is extinguished, than it is in steam pipes; and the heat of the pipes



can be diminished or increased by reducing or increasing the flow of hot water (<sup>9</sup>). The first cost for the erection of the apparatus, for either of these two systems, is said to differ but little when the work is done in an equally substantial manner (<sup>10</sup>). Where hot water pipes are used they should be properly apportioned about the building, in order to insure an equal distribution of warmth; and valves ought to be fixed at various positions in the pipes, so that the amount of heat to be given off may be regulated.

In considering the provision to be made for artificial lighting, it must not be forgotten, that although it is necessary the illumination should be ample, lest the eyes be strained, and perhaps even injured by reading in a deficient light, it is also important that the light should not be too strong. Dr. Forbes Winslow states (<sup>11</sup>), that persons exposed for an undue length of time to the glare of brilliantly-lighted rooms often suffer from chronic ophthalmia and other affections of the sight; that literary men from the same cause, and in fact all who work by artificial light are subject to disorders of the eye.

The general system in vogue for artificial lighting is, of course, by means of coal-gas, and where methods are adopted which do not permit the products of combustion to pass into the air of respiration, gas as an illuminant, is not objectionable to the same extent as when utilised in the usual manner.

That impure additions are made to the air by the ordinary form of gas lighting is well known. Dr. Parkes, indeed, says (<sup>2</sup>) the large quantity of gas often burned, not only causes great heat, but humidity of the air, sulphur dioxide, an excess of carbon dioxide, and a little carbon monoxide to which some of the bad effects produced may be due.

From Watts' *Dictionary of Chemistry* we learn, that oxygen constitutes one-fourth of the atmosphere, and that independently of its existence in the water of the tissues, it is an essential of all living organisms. Yet Dr. Parkes states, that one cubic foot of coal-gas, by the ordinary methods of lighting, destroys, during combustion, the entire oxygen of about eight cubic feet of air, in addition to raising the temperature of 31,290 cubic feet of air 1 deg. Fahr. Coal-gas, as generally burned, has a very damaging effect upon the painted work of walls and ceilings. It is also well known to have most destructive effects upon the leather bindings of books. In the Public Library at Reading, the leather edging of the book shelves was so attacked by the



products of gas consumed for lighting purposes, that after the edging had been in use some seven years, the small portion which had not already fallen to the floor from literal rottenness, had to be entirely removed.

The evils arising from coal-gas as ordinarily burned, clearly indicate that whenever it is the source of illumination in libraries and reading rooms, it should most certainly not be consumed in the air of respiration, but some plan ought to be adopted by which the noxious gases of combustion are carried directly away. There are now in operation several methods by which this end is accomplished, notably the "Wenham" ventilating lamp, and the ventilating lamps of Messrs. Sugg and Co. These regenerative gas-lamps possess several admirable features which render them most suitable for use in libraries and reading rooms. The advantages claimed for the "Wenham" are: immense economy in the consumption of gas; intensity, purity, and steadiness of the light; absence of downward shadow; practical completeness of combustion; the amount of radiant heat becomes hardly perceptible five feet below the burner; and most important of all, the lamp, acting as a ventilating light, not only removes the vitiated air of the room, but also carries at once away the gas fumes. That the "Wenham" lamp is considered a most secure method against fire, as compared with the ordinary plan of gas-lighting, is proved by the fact, that the Fire Insurance Companies' Association at Adelaide, are reported to have reduced the rates of insurance from 20s, when the ordinary gas burner is used, to 12s. 6d. when the "Wenham" is adopted.

The following tables, given by Professor Vivian B. Lewes<sup>(12)</sup>, further illustrate the advantages of the regenerative ventilating gas lamp, as compared with other gas burners.

*Illuminating power per cubic foot of gas consumed, and products of combustion per candle power.*

Name of Burner.	Illuminating power per cub. foot of gas consumed.	Products of combustion per candle power.	
		Carbonic acid.	Water vapour.
	candles.	cub. ft.	cub. ft.
Batwing ... ..	2.9	0.18	0.46
Sugg's London Argand ... ..	3.3	0.16	0.40
Welsbach (incandescent) ... ..	6.0	0.09	0.22
Wenham (regenerative) ... ..	10.0	0.05	0.13

This table shows, that the regenerative lamp not only gives a higher illuminating power per cubic foot of gas consumed

than other burners, but also by its use, a much smaller proportion of carbonic acid and water vapour is produced, per candle power.

*Quantity of gas consumed, amount of oxygen removed from the air, and carbonic acid gas and water vapour generated, to give an illumination equal to 32-candle power.*

Name of Burner.	London—gas burned.	Oxygen removed.	Products of combustion.		
			Water vapour	Carbonic acid.	Equal to adults.
	cub. ft.	cub. ft.	cub. ft.	cub. ft.	
Batwing	11.0	13.06	14.72	5.76	9.6
Sugg's London Argand	9.7	11.52	12.80	5.12	8.5
Welsbach (incandescent)	5.3	6.30	7.10	2.75	4.6
Wenham (regenerative)	3.2	3.68	4.16	1.60	2.6

This table shows, the small proportion of oxygen removed from the air by the use of the regenerative lamp, as compared with the quantity destroyed when other gas burners are used.

All these data point to the fact, that of the various methods in use for lighting libraries by means of coal-gas, the regenerative form of lamp is not only the best, but also the most economical in the consumption of gas.

The voltaic arc-light, as well as the incandescent electric light, is produced by intense heat. According to Dewar, the temperature between the two carbon points of the arc-light is 6,000 deg. C.; while Rosetti gives the positive carbon 3,200 deg. C., and the negative carbon 2,500 deg. C. The temperature of Swan's filament of the incandescent lamp, is stated by Dewar to register 1,900 deg. C. Yet notwithstanding these high rates of temperature a very small proportion of heat is radiated from the electric-light, as compared with that radiated from gas-light. Dr. Julius Maier states (<sup>13</sup>), that to produce an equal amount of light, coal-gas gives off about 100 times more heat than does the electric arc lamp; and that in the process of combustion 94 per cent. of ordinary gas are transmuted into heat, while only 6 per cent. are available for the production of light. But General Morin, another authority on the subject, says that a gas burner consuming 5 cubic feet of gas per hour, gives off 48½ heat units per minute, or 2,910 per hour; and that electric glow lamps yield 1-5th to 1-10th, and the voltaic arc-light 1-20th to 1-50th of the heat given off by gas jets producing an equivalent amount of light.

Dr. Ferd. Fischer (<sup>14</sup>) is responsible for the following valuable

statistics, showing the amount of heat and carbonic acid produced by different forms of light, with a standard lighting power of 100 candles:—

Form of Light.			Light of 100 candles.	
			Units of heat.	Carbonic acid in cub. metres.
Electric arc light	...	...	57 to 158	0*
Electric glow light	...	...	290 to 536	0
Siemens' gas lamp	...	...	1,500	0†
Argand gas burner	...	...	4,860	0.46
Ordinary gas burner...	...	...	12,150	1.14

With the view of ascertaining the difference in temperature of a room lighted with gas by ordinary burners, as compared with the temperature when the electric light is in operation, experiments were made in the news-room of the Public Library at Reading under the two systems of lighting. The gas burners in use were Sugg's ordinary regulators, the gas burning openly in the air and giving an illumination equal to about 360 candles; while the two electric arc lights in the room give a total of some 2,400 candle power. The dimensions of the room are 18 feet high, 27 feet long, and 31 feet wide. The conditions of ventilation were the same on both occasions, and the following table gives the results:—

Method of lighting.	Hours of the day.	Temp. Fahr.		
		In open air outside building.	5 feet from floor.	16 feet from floor.}
Gas-light	{ 1 p.m. Mid-day. No lamps lighted. }	65.0	65.5	65.5
Arc-light		63.5	64.5	65.0
Gas-light	{ 7 p.m. Before the lamps were lighted. }	61.5	66.0	66.0
Arc-light		63.0	66.0	66.0
Gas-light	{ 10 p.m. After lamps had been lighted 3 hours. }	61.5	70.0	81.0
Arc-light		60.5	65.0	66.0

By these figures it will be seen, that after the gas had been burning three hours, the thermometer, at 5 feet from the floor

\*With some carbons acid is given off.

† The gases produced are carried directly away.



had risen 4 deg., and at 16 feet from the floor had risen 15 deg., although the temperature in the open air had not changed. When the arc lamps were in operation, and after they had been lighted three hours, the thermometer at 5 feet from the floor registered a fall of 1 deg., and showed no change at 16 feet from the floor, but the outside thermometer had fallen 2.5 deg.

These illustrations of temperature show, that with gas in use, by the usual method of consumption, the purest and coolest air is to be found in the lower part of the room, and that the most impure and hottest air is nearer the ceiling. The hot air, which is of course highly charged with impurities injurious to health, slowly cools if not immediately carried away, and as it cools, becoming heavier than the normal air below, descends, mixes with the purer air of respiration and vitiates it <sup>(3)</sup>.

The effect upon the eyes of artificial light is of no little importance, especially when we consider that reading is, perhaps, the most severe strain to which the eye is usually put; and the additional fact that the letterpress of many of the journals in the rooms of our public libraries is anything but good, points to the value of the artificial light supplied being as good in quality as can be provided. On this subject we are able to obtain some interesting details with respect to the colour rays produced by various kinds of light. When coal-gas is the illuminant, the eye not only receives the heat rays, but also a preponderance of the red, orange and yellow rays; and with the incandescent electric lamp the same colour rays also prevail. But in using the electric arc-light the predominating rays of colour are blue, violet and indigo. Dr. Alfred Ritter von Urbanitzky states <sup>(15)</sup>, that experiments have shown gas-light to be stronger in red rays than either sun-light or electric-light, but that the arc-light is richer in violet rays than either sun light or gas-light.

Now, the effect of different colour rays upon the retina of the eye, and upon the human system, is of more consequence than is usually supposed. Dr. E. D. Babbitt, who has spent many years in the study of the matter, says, <sup>(11)</sup>, that the electrical colours, violet, indigo and blue, are cooling and soothing to the nerves and blood, while yellow and orange are animating to the nerves, but red and the invisible heat rays are exciting to the blood. Dr. Forbes Winslow also remarks <sup>(11)</sup> that, according to a distinguished oculist, light is injurious to the eyes in pro-

portion as the red and yellow rays prevail, as they produce cerebral and visual excitement, followed by debility of the retina.

On this point valuable evidence is given by Professor Tyndall, respecting these three forms of light, in the following figures by him:—

					Visible (or light) rays.	Invisible (or heat and chemical) rays.	
Gas	...	...	...	gives	I	to	24
Incandescent wire	...	...	...	"	I	"	23
The Arc...	...	...	...	"	I	"	9

Thus showing, what small proportion the visible rays of gas and incandescent lights bear to the invisible, as compared with the arc-light.

Sir Henry Englefield proved by experiments how the heat increases as we go from the electrical to the lower thermal colours. In his experiments the thermometer rose in the different rays as follows:—

		deg.		deg.	deg.
In the Blue rays in three minutes, from	55	to	56,	or	1
„ Green	„	„	54	to	58, or 4
„ Yellow	„	„	56	to	62, or 6
„ Red	2½	„	56	to	72, or 16
Below the Red	„	„	61	to	79, or 18

Demonstrating the fact, that there are eighteen times as much heat effect produced by the trans-red ray in 2½ minutes as from the blue ray in three minutes. The violet ray, another of the electrical colours, is considered to produce still less heat than the blue.

A great deal has recently been said respecting the accidents which have occurred in America, and which have been brought about by electric currents. Enquiry, however, appears to have shown that these accidents have generally been due to the rough and imperfect manner in which overhead wires have been insulated. In this country the provisions of the Board of Trade are such as tend to guard the public from these mishaps. Electric lighting is not, indeed, so dangerous as often supposed, provided the installation is thoroughly carried out. Competent experts, including Fire Insurance Companies, agree, that, with proper precautions, the electric light is a much less dangerous illuminant than gas, oil, or candles (<sup>16</sup>).

The principal advantage of the electric light, as compared

with gas-light produced by ordinary burners, is, in the words of Prof. Tyndall, it is not purchased at the expense of the vitalising constituent of the atmosphere.

To rate-supported libraries the question of expense for any form of artificial light must of necessity be one of importance. But a so-called expensive system of lighting, whether by the use of ventilating gas lamps, or by means of electricity, may in reality, from various reasons, prove the most economical in the end.

In producing the electric-light, experience appears to differ considerably on the subject of cost, and especially as to whether the electric current should be supplied from a company's depôt, or from apparatus erected for the purpose of a single installation.

Our experience at Reading on this matter may be of some interest. The contract between the Library committee and the Reading electric lighting company specifies, that the sum of £80 per annum shall be paid for supplying the current to the eight arc lamps in use in the Library and Reading rooms, for providing the necessary carbons, and for keeping the lamps in order. It was considered that 100 glow lamps, of 8-candle power each, would be required to illuminate the library and rooms for reading purposes only, and to supply the electric current and renewals to these lamps would cost at the rate of £150 per annum. To supply the current and renewals to a sufficient number of large incandescent, or "Sunbeam" lamps, of 300-candle power each, would cost about £250 per annum. These prices, from a public company, both for arc and glow lamps, are, probably, exceptionally low, and cannot be taken as a standard of the cost of electric lighting for library purposes.

The arc lamps in operation at Reading are nominally of 1,200-candle power each. Some 50 to 60 per cent. of the illumination, is, however, absorbed by thick opal globes, which are not only necessary in order to protect the eye from the acute and dazzling rays, but also because, by their use, the light is admirably diffused, and heavy shadows prevented. The total illuminating power at the library, is, therefore, equal to about 4,320 candles. If 100, 8-candle power, glow lamps had been adopted, the expense for lighting would not only have been nearly double that for arc lamps, but the total lighting power would have only been equal to about 800 candles. The cost for the gas consumed in the library and reading rooms last year was £79 odd, while the total illuminating power was equal to some 1,360 candles.



The result of our experience at Reading with electric arc lighting, demonstrates the fact, that excellent though this method undoubtedly is for the purpose of illuminating lofty rooms, the flickering and occasional failure of a lamp to light, from one cause or another, shows that the system is not yet perfect.

WILLIAM H. GREENHOUGH,  
*Librarian, Free Public Library, Reading.*

(<sup>1</sup>) Billings' *Principles of Ventilation and Heating*.

(<sup>2</sup>) Parkes' *Manual of Practical Hygiene*.

(<sup>3</sup>) Professor V. B. Lewes, *On Illumination and Ventilation*.

(<sup>4</sup>) Papers in the *Proceedings of the Royal Society*.

(<sup>5</sup>) Wilson's *Hand Book of Hygiene*. Guy's *Evidence before the Health of Towns' Commission*.

(<sup>6</sup>) A copy of the report will be found in Billings' *Principles of Ventilation and Heating*.

(<sup>7</sup>) From the article in the *Times*, reprinted in *Ure's Dictionary*.

(<sup>8</sup>) *Sanitary Engineer*, Vol. 3. Billings' *Principles of Ventilation and Heating*.

(<sup>9</sup>) Schumann's *Manual of Heating and Ventilation*.

(<sup>10</sup>) Woods' *Warming Buildings by Hot Water, Steam, and Hot Air, &c.*

(<sup>11</sup>) Babbitt's *Principles of Light and Colour*.

(<sup>12</sup>) *Lecture on Illumination and Ventilation*.

(<sup>13</sup>) *Arc and Glow Lamps*.

(<sup>14</sup>) Dingler's *Polytechnisches Journal*, 1883.

(<sup>15</sup>) *Electricity in the Service of Man*.

(<sup>16</sup>) Swinton, *On Electric Lighting*, in *Murray's Magazine*, April, 1890.



## THE LIBRARY CHRONICLE.

### Records of Bibliography and Library Literature.

The Buke of John Maundeville, being the Travels of Sir John Mandeville, a hitherto unpublished English version from the unique copy, Egerton MS., 1982, in the British Museum. Edited together with the French text, notes and an introduction, by G. F. Warner. Illustrated with miniatures reproduced in facsimile from the additional MS., 24, 189. *Printed for the Roxburgh Club, Westminster, 1889. Fol., pp. xlvii., 232.*

A new edition of Mandeville, however good, would not under ordinary circumstances call for notice in *The Library*, least of all one which is printed only for private circulation. But questions of authorship and the explanation of pseudonyms will always have an interest for all good cataloguers, and from this point of view Mr. Warner's splendid edition legitimately concerns us. Previous investigators, the late Sir Henry Yule, Bodley's librarian, and many learned Germans, before Mr. Warner began to work, have effectually disposed of the theory that Mandeville should be considered as the "father of English Prose." All the forms in which we possess the English version of the travels bear evident marks, in omissions and misrenderings, of having been translated from a French original, while the claims of the Latin text to priority have been proved to be equally baseless. Mandeville, therefore, wrote in French, but who was he? The answer given in his work and by tradition points to his having been an English knight, born at Saint Albans, for more than twenty years a traveller in the regions he describes, whence he returned, a victim to arthritic gout, dying after some years' residence at Liège, in the year 1372, and buried in the Willelmit Church in that city. Of all this tradition only the residence at Liège and the burial in the Willelmit Church have survived investigation, and from a passage in the chronicle of Jean d'Outremeuse it is now known that the man over whose body the Mandeville tombstone was erected had been known in his life as Jean de Bourgogne, a scholar-physician of Liège. According to his friend d'Outremeuse this Jean de Bourgogne had resided in his youth in England and fled thence in 1322, to escape punishment for a homicide. Mr. Warner's researches point to his identity with a John of Burgundy, mentioned in the Parliamentary Rolls as an adherent of the Earl of Lancaster, who took part in the attack on the Despensers in 1321. For this he received a pardon, but the next year the pardon was revoked, and his flight from England coincides almost to a month with the date mentioned by d'Outremeuse. It is probable that after leaving England Jean de Bourgogne did actually journey as far as Constantinople and the Holy Land; but the rest of the Mandevillian travels never took him outside his own library, or that of his friend d'Outremeuse. Each marvellous legend and description is traced by Mr. Warner to the pages of one or another of some dozen of mediæval geographers, whom the compiler laid under contribution, not with the childlike innocence so common among early writers, but with a skilfulness of concealment which is some consolation for the long duration of the success of his fraud. Thanks to Mr. Warner and his predecessors, the mystery with which this work has so long been enveloped is now almost wholly dispelled, and the cataloguer who wishes to show himself thoroughly up to date may assign the travels to MANDEVILLE, SIR

JOHN, *pseud. i.e.*, JEAN DE BOURGOGNE, though perhaps not altogether without some lingering suspicion that d'Outremeuse himself, who knew so much about the compiler, may have taken a more active share in the work than he is pleased to represent. The choice of the name Mandeville as a pseudonym, Mr. Warner explains by the presence in England at the beginning of the fourteenth century, of a real John de Mandeville, who also was an adherent of the Earl of Lancaster, and, curiously enough, had taken part in, and been pardoned for, the attack on Edward II.'s earlier favourite, Piers Gaveston.

Gutenberg früheste Druckerpraxis, auf Grund einer mit Hülfe der Herrn Dr. Phil. W. Bahrdt, Dr. Phil. K. Meyer und Cand. Phil. J. Schnorrenberg ausgeführten Vergleichung der 42 Zeiligen und 36-Zeiligen Bibel, dargestellt von Karl Dziatzko. Mit 8 Lichtdrucktafeln. *Berlin, Verlag von A. Asher & Co.* 8vo, pp. ix., 136.

Dr. Dziatzko is continuing his Gutenberg researches with energy and success. The subject of his present monograph is the relations of the 42 and 36-line Bibles, the "Mazarine" and the "Bamberg," as they are popularly called. The ground is no new one, but Dr. Dziatzko belongs to the race of scientific farmers, and his application of improved methods of research has yielded some remarkable results. Hitherto the relations of the two Bibles have been investigated mainly by the light of quotations from different chroniclers, most of whom, unconscious of the importance of their subject, indulged in a vague obscurity of language more fruitful of controversy than of satisfactory results. Without unduly depreciating the evidence of these chroniclers, Dr. Dziatzko has rightly concluded that the testimony of the first importance is that which can be extracted from the Bibles themselves. He has therefore made diligent examination and comparison of paper and watermarks, of various minute points of typography and also of some portions of the texts. To follow him step by step in these investigations is impossible, within the limits of this brief "Notice," though we hope to be able to return to the subject at greater length at some future time. For the present we can only record his main results. The 42-line, or Mazarine Bible, he unhesitatingly attributes to the partnership of Gutenberg and Fust, of which he regards it as the sole result.

"We may figure to ourselves the respective shares of the two partners in the preparation of the 42-line Bible, as follows :—Gutenberg alone was the original promoter of the enterprise and remained responsible for the technical part of the printing ; his province included the preparation of the types and the rest of the printing materials, he instructed the composers and printers and superintended the composing and printing even in details. Fust, as publisher, provided money and materials, and with his employés was concerned in the outlying departments of the printing, with the revision of the text and correction of the press."

With the 36-line Bible, on the other hand, Fust had nothing to do. He would not be likely to print a second Bible to compete with the first, and after 1455, various indications point to the connection of the printer of the 36-line Bible with Albrecht Pfister. That Gutenberg was concerned in the production of the 36-line as of the 42-line Bible, Dr. Dziatzko holds as certain. But the greater part of this work, by the testimony of various mistakes, &c., he shows to have been printed from the Gutenberg-Fust 42-line edition, which therefore is confirmed in its claim to be the first complete printed book. On the date of the earlier



part of the 36-line Bible, and therefore of the type from which the whole book was subsequently printed, Dr. Dziatzko pronounces no decided opinion. The type may have been in existence before the Fust-Gutenberg partnership, and have been rejected by Fust as too unwieldy for the production of so large a book as a complete Bible. On the other hand, we cannot be sure of the existence of the type until 1454, when it was used for the 31-line Indulgence, and it is possible that when Gutenberg began to find his partnership with Fust likely to come to an end, he may, from his own scanty resources, have caused a small amount of the type to be cut, which he employed on small jobs and in setting up specimen pages of a rival Bible with which to attract a new capitalist. Either hypothesis account fairly well for the facts as we know them, though the size of the 36-line type makes the first slightly the more probable. In any case we know that the type was subsequently in the possession of Pfister, who printed with it at Bamberg in 1461, and it is reasonable, therefore, to imagine that it was Pfister who was Gutenberg's second partner, learning from him enough to print a little by himself, though not enough to encourage him to undertake another work of any magnitude.

### Library Notes and News.

*The Editor earnestly requests that librarians and others will send to him early and accurate information as to all local Library doings. The briefest record of facts and dates is all that is required.*

*In course of time "Library Notes and News" will become of the utmost value to the historian of the Free Library movement, and it is therefore of the highest importance that every paragraph should be vouched for by local knowledge.*

Contributors should send a memorandum of their contributions to the Editor at the end of each quarter, and a remittance will be promptly forwarded.

BLAIRGOWRIE AND RATTRAY.—Mr. Carnegie has given £100 to be spent in books for Blairgowrie and Rattray Mechanics' Institute Library. It was at one time proposed to adopt the Free Libraries Act, but the idea has been for the present abandoned, as it has been found that Blairgowrie and Rattray could not legally work together under the Act, being different burghs, although practically one community.

CRIEFF.—The free library at Crieff, which is to be maintained by the trustees of the late William Taylor, was opened on October 18th, by Sir Donald Currie, M.P.

DUBLIN.—The New National Museum and Library of Ireland was opened by Lord Zetland, the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, on August 29th. The architect, Mr. T. N. Deane, was knighted by Lord Zetland, at the close of the proceedings. The library contains a noble reading-room, capable of seating 200 readers, and is distinguished for a novel and ingenious arrangement for the storage of the books, designed by the librarian, Mr. William Archer, by which such great economy of space is effected that in an area about the size of the reading-room of the British Museum 600,000 volumes can be stored. In a long letter to the *Freeman's Journal*, Mr. Archer has described the system, that of Mr. Melvil Dewey, on which the books were classified on the shelves.

EDINBURGH.—The Committee of the Edinburgh Public Library on October 2nd, unanimously resolved to increase the salary of Mr. Hew Morrison, from £300 to £350.

HALIFAX : YORKSHIRE.—The Central Library here has been removed from its confined and dingy quarters in Harrison Road to the Mansion.

of Belle Vue, formerly the residence of the late Sir Francis Crossley, Bart. The mansion, which stands in its own grounds adjacent to the People's Park, was bought by the corporation for the purposes of the public library. A few alterations have been made, to adapt it to its present use, but on the whole the mansion remains, internally as well as externally, much as Sir Francis left it. Doors have been made to connect the rooms on the ground floor, and counter room 100 feet long has been provided, with bookshelves on the alcove principle, behind. At present, the library contains about 28,000 volumes. In what was the courtyard, a spacious reading-room, nearly 100 feet long and 42 feet wide, has been built. The library and reading-room were opened, without any ceremony, on the 29th of September, last, when 500 borrowers were supplied with books. The average issue since re-opening, has been 276 volumes daily. In the reading-room 200 readers may often be counted at one time. A ladies' reading-room and a students' room, on the second floor, will shortly be added. A supplementary catalogue is being prepared by the librarian, J. Whiteley.

HIGHAM FERRERS.—The Town Council of Higham Ferrers have promoted a petition to Mr. G. C. W. Fitzwilliam, praying him to grant the ancient College of St. Mary to the town for a reading-room and library.

HOVE : SUSSEX.—Steps are being taken towards the adoption of the Libraries Acts at this place.

INVERNESS.—Mr. A. Carnegie was presented with the freedom of the burgh of Inverness on September 12th, and he delivered a speech on free libraries. It was announced that he would wipe off the entire debt on the building, viz., £1,750. Mr. Hew Morrison, of Edinburgh, had previously prepared a report on the library for Mr. Carnegie.

LEEDS.—A proposition made in the Leeds Town Council on Oct. 1st to apply to Parliament for power to spend 2d. in the £ for library and art gallery purposes, was lost by a large majority. One councillor (Mr. Wainman) is reported as having described the fine art gallery as a "socialistic indulgence" and book reading as simply a luxury.

LONDON.—The *Daily News* of September 16th gave an interesting article on London Free Libraries. There are now nineteen parishes, out of the sixty-seven into which London is divided, that have adopted the Acts and support libraries out of the rates.

LONDON : BATTERSEA.—The new branch library in Lurline Gardens, being the third library established in the parish, was formally opened on Tuesday, September 30th, by Mr. J. S. Gilliat, M.P., in the absence, through illness, of the Right Hon. D. R. Plunket, First Commissioner of Works. Mr. Percy M. Thornton, chairman of the Library Commissioners, presided, and interesting addresses were delivered by Mr. E. Maunde Thompson, Principal Librarian of the British Museum and President of the Library Association, Mr. J. S. Leadam, Mr. Guy Pym, and some of the Library Commissioners. The building is constructed, like the Central Library, of red brick with Portland stone dressings, and being only one storey high, all the rooms are on the street level, consisting of a reading-room 37 by 36 feet, lending library 37 by 30 feet, librarian's office, and three other rooms which can be utilized as the growth of the library may render necessary. Space is provided in the library for over 10,000 volumes, but at present there are only 4,245. The reading-room will accommodate about 100 readers. The reference library and the reading-rooms at the central and branch libraries were opened for the first time on Sunday, on October 5th, and were very well attended. The open hours on Sundays are from 3 to 9 p.m.



LONDON.—CAMBERWELL.—The Livesey Library, Old Kent Road, was opened on October 18th by Sir Edward Clarke, Q.C., M.P. The freehold site and building were given by Mr. George Livesey, the cost being about £7,000. It was Mr. Livesey's offer which initiated the movement which resulted in the adoption of the Public Libraries' Acts in Camberwell. The building is a substantial edifice, the news-room being large and exceptionally lofty. The temporary (central) library in High Street, Peckham, has been doing heavy work since the opening of the lending department in June. The Library Commissioners have just secured an eligible site in the Peckham Road—a central position, close to the boundaries of the three parliamentary divisions of the parish. The chief librarian (Mr. Foskett) has issued two catalogues representing 13,323 volumes.

LONDON : CLERKENWELL.—The new Clerkenwell Free Library was opened on October 10th by the Lord Mayor, who was accompanied by the Lady Mayoress, Mr. Sheriff and Mrs. Augustus Harris, and Mr. Sheriff and Mrs. Farmer. The Chair was occupied by the Rev. J. H. Rose, vicar of Clerkenwell, and among others who took part in the proceedings were :—Mr. W. Robson (chairman), Sir Albert Rollit, M.P., Earl Compton, M.P., and Mr. R. M. Holborn. The last-named gentleman, it will be remembered, is a large benefactor to the new library. The Reading Room will be open on Sundays from three to nine.

LONDON : NEWINGTON.—A requisition having been served on Mr. Burgess, the clerk of the overseers and guardians of the parish of St. Mary, Newington, calling upon him to ascertain the opinion of the ratepayers as to the desirability of adopting the Free Libraries Act, that gentleman appointed October 25th for the purpose of taking a poll of the parish. With reference to this movement a meeting was held on October 16th, at the Lecture Hall, Carter Street, Walworth, for the purpose of enlisting the sympathy and support in favour thereof. The hall was crowded. Sir J. Lubbock, M.P., presided, and was supported by, Major Isaacs, M.P., Mr. Lynn Bristowe, M.P., Alderman Evan Spicer, L.C.C., Mr. Piggot, Churchwarden Bridges, Mrs. Ashton Dilke, Mr. T. Greenwood and others. The secretary read apologies for their absence from the following advocates of free libraries, Mr. Kimber, M.P., Professor Stuart, M.P., Lord Meath, Mr. Cooke, M.P. and Lord Hobhouse. Sir John Lubbock gave an interesting address on ignorance and crime, after which on the motion of Mr. Piggot, seconded by Mr. Bridges, and supported by Mrs. Ashton Dilke, Mr. Isaacs, M.P., and Alderman Spicer, the following resolution was agreed to :—“That, in the opinion of this meeting of ratepayers of St. Mary, Newington, the adoption of the Free Libraries Act for the parish consisting largely of working men would be highly beneficial.”

LONDON : ROTHERHITHE.—The Rotherhithe Free Library, Lower Road, was opened on October 1st by Sir John Lubbock.

LONDON : ST. GEORGE, HANOVER SQUARE.—The Vestry at their last meeting appointed the following nine Commissioners to carry out the Free Public Libraries Act in this Parish, viz. :—The Duke of Westminster ; R. C. Antrobus, Esq. ; Rev. J. H. Ellison ; Messrs. H. J. Cove, E. Burch, W. Adkins, J. Finch, T. Lewis, and F. G. Best.

LONDON : STOKE NEWINGTON.—Mr. James Fernley, Assistant in the Manchester Free Libraries, has been appointed librarian of the Stoke Newington Free Library. Temporary premises were opened on October 4th at the Assembly Rooms, Defoe Road, the Rev. Prebendary Shelford presiding.

LONDON : WANDSWORTH.—Dr. Longstaff, to whom Wandsworth is



indebted for a good many favours, has paid over the sum of £2,000 to the committee formed with the object of extinguishing the debt on the Wandsworth Free Library. Dr. Longstaff originally offered this sum on condition that a similar sum was subscribed by his ninety-first birthday in March last, but has now given the full amount, although the committee have only been able to secure £900.

MANCHESTER : OWENS COLLEGE.—The *Owens College Magazine* for October has a descriptive article on the College Library, which now contains 51,040 volumes.

MERTHYR.—The establishment of a free library for Merthyr was mooted at a meeting in connection with the Gilchrist Trust Lectures on September 17th. It is understood that a local committee has been formed to further the project.

NEWCASTLE-UNDER-LYME, STAFFORDSHIRE.—The Lord Mayor of London, accompanied by the Sheriffs of London and Middlesex, Mr. Augustus Harris and Mr. Farmer, on October 14th, opened the new municipal hall and free library at Newcastle-under-Lyme.

SHEFFIELD.—A Local Act, passed last Session, contains a clause empowering the Town Council to raise the Library Rate to 2d. in the £, and on September 10th it was decided to increase the rate for the ensuing half year from 1d. to 1½d. in the £. The expenses of the Mappin Art Gallery and Ruskin Museum, formerly charged to the General District Fund, will in future be paid out of the Library Rate. This will leave a surplus from the extra halfpenny of about £320 for library purposes. It is proposed to spend from £2,000 to £3,000 in extensions and improvements at the Central Free Library, where the accommodation has hitherto been very poor.

STROUD, NEAR BRISTOL.—At the annual meeting of the subscribers of the Stroud Free Library (supported by voluntary contributions), the report stated that the number of books issued from the lending department during the year had been 60,535, giving a daily average of 204. It was estimated that no fewer than 298,981 visits had been paid to the library during the year. Not a single volume had been lost.

WARRINGTON.—The Corporation having an Improvement Bill before Parliament during last session, the opportunity was taken to introduce a clause giving power to increase the library rate to twopence. The limit was subsequently reduced by a ratepayers' meeting to three halfpence, and the Bill was passed with the clause so amended. This increase of income will enable the committee to make the lending department free, as the reading room, reference department, museum and art gallery have always been. It is a move in the right direction, but it causes some regret to see the end of an interesting experiment which has been working very satisfactorily for the last two years, by which books have been lent (under guarantee) for a payment of a penny for each work issued.

WEDNESBURY.—The *Literary World* (October 17), commends the doubtful, and as it erroneously thinks new, idea of tacking on a subscription library to a free public library which Mr. Thomas Stanley, librarian of Wednesbury, adopted a year or so ago. The principle on which it is conducted is that after two years the books are handed over to the shelves of the free library, in return for which the subscription library gets a home provided for it within the walls of the public one. Members of the Library Association will remember that the policy of amalgamating a Subscription Library with the "Free" Library was debated at one of the Association's meetings sometime ago. About twelve years ago, if not more, Mr. Yates made a vigorous attempt to carry this idea to a successful issue at Leeds, and for several years gave his services gratuitously ; but the experiment had to be abandoned.

WREXHAM.—On October 6th Sir Edward Watkin, M.P., delivered a lecture at Wrexham in aid of the funds of the free library. He was accorded a public reception by the Mayor and burgesses. Mr. Gladstone has sent a large parcel of books for the library.

LIBRARIANS OF THE MERSEY DISTRICT.—The ninth quarterly meeting was held at the Young Men's Christian Association Rooms, Southport, on Friday, 24th October. After tea, Mr. Newman (Atkinson Free Library) took the chair and the annual business was disposed of. It was reported that during the year there had been an average attendance of thirteen members and five visitors (assistant). Mr. Madeley (Warrington) was re-elected Secretary. Mr. Newman read a paper on the "Southport Free Library," dealing chiefly with recent work in the Reference Department. A separate collection of books and a separate room had been set apart as the notice on the door states, "for purposes of study," and the paper contained details of the use made of the new arrangement, both as to books consulted and the class of persons resorting to them, which were ample justification of the Committee's action in attempting to develop this more serious if less popular department of its functions.

Mr. Shaw (Liverpool Athenæum) exhibited samples of leather, which had been tried as a shelf covering as a protection of the bindings of heavy folios. The smooth polished surface of the material minimised the friction and consequently the wear and tear, whilst the cost (about 2 shillings per foot a shelf) was very little when compared with that of rollers or sliding trays.

### Library Catalogues.

Borough of Bootle. Third Supplement to the Catalogue of the Free Public Library. Compiled by John J. Ogle, Librarian, and C. H. Hunt, Sub-Librarian. 1890. Royal 8vo, pp. 16.

Printed in double columns, with the contents of volumes of essays carefully set out. The subject entries are in a clarendon letter, followed by a list of authors on the particular subject represented in the library, with the catalogue numbers of their books. This saves much space and expense in a large catalogue, and the arrangement is one we can recommend. Subject entries so treated form a subject index to the contents of a library.

Camberwell Public Libraries. Catalogue of the books in the Livesey Lending Library (Old Kent Road). Compiled by Edward Foskett, Chief Librarian. 1890. 8vo, pp. 244.

It is not often we see a catalogue which so nearly fulfils our ideal as that prepared for the Livesey Lending Library. It is all that such a list should be. The compilation, so far as we have tested it, is of a high order, the rules laid down being accurately adhered to. The plan adopted is the one alphabet system, and with the variety of type used for the initial word of each line the clearness of the entries is greatly increased. The type used is small pica, old style, authors' names in small capitals, subjects in clarendon. The page is in full measure, except where long lists under subjects or series are printed in double columns in small type.

Bradford Public Free Libraries. Supplementary Catalogue of the Central Library. Third Edition. June, 1890. 8vo, pp. 87.

This list is arranged under six divisions, the entries in each being



under names of authors, subject, and title. It is clearly printed in single column on a size of paper which, when folded, measures one inch narrower than demy 8vo. This size is that adopted by the Bibliothèques Municipales of Paris, and has advantages over the broader page. The chief librarian is Mr. Butler Wood.

Catalogue of Brentford Public Library. Compiled by Fred. A. Turner, Librarian. 1890. Crown 8vo, pp. xii, 99.

A neatly printed list of nearly 3,000 volumes, compiled on the dictionary plan. A more sparing use of capitals would have improved the appearance and added to the clearness of the entries. Prefixed is a list of what the compiler in his preface terms *nom-de-plumes*. It has been arranged in a very haphazard manner, and printed without regard to uniformity of method. Thus we have "Eliot, George," and "Johnny Ludlow," "Knickerbocker, Didrich," and "Max O'Rell." The recommendation to readers on the last page of the Catalogue "to peruse the advertisements...and to patronise the tradesmen therein named," is most undignified.

Bristol Public Free Libraries, Redland Branch. Supplement to Library Catalogue. John Taylor, City Librarian. 1890. 8vo, pp. 88.

Divided into sections—General and Fiction. Clearly printed in double columns, in modern type, the contents of certain volumes being very carefully set out. These special volumes are, for the most part, composed of magazine articles on given subjects, *e.g.*, Africa, Art, German History, Papal History, &c. The convenience to students of such volumes of collected papers is very great, and the plan is worthy of adoption in libraries possessing duplicate files of periodicals.

Borough of Nottingham. Free Public Libraries, Supplement to Nos. 2, 7 and 12 Class Lists of Books in the Reference Library. Theology and Ecclesiastical History; Sociology; and Mental and Moral Philosophy. Compiled by J. Potter Briscoe, Principal Librarian. 1890. pp. 16. 2nd Supplement to No. 3 Class List. Science. 1890. pp. 12.

We have before noticed the useful class lists issued from time to time by Mr. J. Potter Briscoe, no fewer than twenty-two having appeared at prices varying from one penny to sixpence. Those under consideration maintain the good quality of previous lists, and will be welcomed by students, to whom they must be a great boon.

Borough of Portsmouth Free Public Library. Supplement and Finding List of recent additions to the Lending Department. (1888-1890.) Compiled by Tweed D. A. Jewers, Borough Librarian. 1890. Royal 8vo, pp. 143.

This is meant for a dictionary catalogue, but the compilation has not been thoroughly carried out. Capitals are far too numerous. About half a column is devoted to books with titles commencing *The* (the italics are the compilers) under that part of the alphabet! We think it not improbable that the half column might have been indefinitely extended, but what was the principle of selection we cannot discover. Short notes are appended to certain works, *e.g.*, under *Ivanhoe*, "A spirited and famous novel;" under *Golden Girls*, "A pretty story;" and under *Poor Nellie*, "A novel of absorbing interest." The list is neatly printed in double columns.



## Abstracts of Library Reports.

FOR PERIOD COVERED BY REPORT, SEE TABLE.

MANOR OF ASTON: ROBERT K. DENT, Librarian.

The library having outgrown the accommodation provided for it in 1882, the Local Board have granted the use of an additional room; still the shelves are overcrowded. Falling-off in the issue of books from lending department attributed to the improvement in trade. Fourth edition of lending library catalogue issued. A card has been devised to serve the double purpose of book-mark and date-record. Clarendon Press have granted books to the value of £25. Seventh annual course of lectures has been successful.

BARKING, ESSEX: GEORGE JACKSON, Hon. Librarian.

The Public Libraries Acts were adopted November 27th, 1888, by a majority of 680, Barking being the first place in Essex to do so. Committee consists of six members of the Local Board and nine non-members. Reading room opened March 18th, 1889; library opened May 31st, 1889, by Professor Westlake. Barking Town Local Board has given the *Encyclopædia Britannica*. The architect, secretary and librarian have freely and spontaneously given their services.

BARROW-IN-FURNESS: JOHN FROWDE, Librarian.

Decrease in issue attributed to the great improvement in the trade of the town. Readers may be commended for the care exercised in the treatment of books; 61 volumes in Dr. Moon's embossed type have been purchased, and a teacher for the blind appointed by friends interested in the matter. The lavatory produces £1 9s. 1d.

BRENTFORD: FRED. A. TURNER, Librarian.

Committee state success of the movement has more than realized their expectations. Out of thirty-six applicants, Mr. Fred. A. Turner, sub-librarian at the Public Library, Wolverhampton, was appointed. Library opened by Mr. J. Bigwood, M.P., on January 16th, 1890, a local collection being formed. The "Elliott Indicator" is used.

CAMBRIDGE: JOHN PINK, Librarian.

Wear and tear considerable; 227 volumes withdrawn and 961 volumes either bound or repaired. Catalogue of reference library published. In connection with the Cambridge University Extension Lectures, text books provided for use of students. Two books stolen from open shelves. 384 postcards left to secure books. Board of Guardians have offered a site on the Mill Road for a new branch library.

DERBY: WILLIAM CROWTHER, Librarian.

Remaining portion of the cleaning and painting of the building has been completed. Causes for decrease in issue are various. Few of the readers are in the habit of marking the books; "1,005 books have been bespoke at the cost of one penny." A list of infected houses is supplied to the library weekly.

HAMMERMITH: SAMUEL MARTIN, Librarian.

The report of the Commissioners appears in the fourth annual report of the vestry of the parish of Hammersmith. Reading room opened August 12th, 1889. Library opened March 19th, 1890, by Sir John Lubbock; 1,362 volumes have been presented. Lending Library catalogue issued.

LEEK, NICHOLSON INSTITUTE : A. S. MCLEOD, Librarian.

The books are now in a fairly good condition and borrowers deserve to be commended for the care they have taken of them. Mr. A. Nicholson supplemented the library rate by a donation of £190 18s. 2d.

NEWCASTLE-UPON-TYNE : W. J. HAGGERSTON, Librarian.

Seventeen pages are filled with a detailed account of the following headings : Lending and Juvenile Libraries, Specifications for Patents, News Room, Reference Library, Thomlinson Library, Conferences, Riddell and Walter Scott Donations, Libraries, British Museum Duplicates, Collection of Locally Printed Books, Meeting of the British Association, Death of Members of Committee, Electric Light Installation and the Library Staff ; the remaining eighteen pages are devoted to Statistics, Donations, &c. Special book-case in lending library for exhibition of all new books. Specifications may be consulted within three *weeks* of the acceptance, instead of having to wait fifteen or eighteen *months*. The Corporation have undertaken all payments, including binding. Cases of theft and mutilation in news room have occurred. Reference library catalogue in progress. There are 538 volumes, prose fiction, in reference library, with an issue of 358. Section H of the British Association used rooms at the annual meeting, September 11th—19th. The Committee have decided to introduce the electric light. The balance in hand has increased from £2,358 to £2,430, and loans outstanding, £23,386.

NORWICH : GEORGE EASTER, Librarian.

Room set apart for students attending Cambridge University Extension Lectures. The course of lectures managed by the Library Committee has been most successful. Sunday opening, three to nine, has been quietly successful. The use of the elementary schools as branch libraries has considerably augmented the issues. The head teachers have done all the necessary work with aptitude and readiness. The balance due to treasurer is increased by £72.

NOTTINGHAM : J. POTTER BRISCOE, Librarian.

Pages 2-8 are devoted to an interesting account of the work done during the eighth session of the University College. There are five lending libraries, a central reference library, and twelve reading rooms. A list of the principal additions to the reference library is given. The whole of the repairs of the books have been made in the binding room at the central library. During the same period new catalogues have been revised and prepared. Two assistants have been appointed to librarianships in London. No financial statement is given.

PLYMOUTH : W. H. K. WRIGHT, Librarian.

Lending department closed for nearly six months during the prevalence of a fever epidemic. A room has been fitted up for the local (Devon and Cornwall) collection. More than 2,000 volumes are in constant circulation amongst the children attending the various schools. The matter of providing more adequate accommodation has again occupied the Committee. Plans have been prepared showing how a site in the Tavistock Road could be utilised. Separate catalogue of reference library in preparation.

PORTSMOUTH : TWEED D. A. JEWERS, Librarian.

The books have been removed to St. Paul's Hall, Southsea. 1,076 volumes are classified as "In Stock." A supplementary catalogue is being printed. A total increase of 11,244 is claimed—"the exact figures will be found in Table No. 1." But on referring to Table 1, the issue for



1888-89 is 254,162, for 1889-90 255,908; simple subtraction gives the increase as 1,746. Possibly this discrepancy is the result of a misprint. Two books only were missing at the removal. The ladies' room is a success.

ROCHDALE : GEORGE HANSON, Librarian.

Nine hundred and eighty-three volumes added to the Boys' Library. During the week ending Feb. 15th, 936 persons (? all boys) entered the Boys' Library. Supplementary catalogue to the lending department has been issued; 25,499 volumes consulted on Sunday. Average cost of books in the library, exclusive of presents, 3s per volume.

ROTHERHAM : JOHN RIDAL, Librarian.

The year just concluded is the eighth of the library's existence, although it may be said to be the first of its maturity. A short history of the institution is given; no report issued since September 1884, for financial reasons. In conjunction with the Baths Committee a large building has been erected, the upper story of which is assigned to the library. Jubilee day was made the occasion of the official opening. Mrs. Henry Wood's *Ilchester College Boys* has been asked for most frequently; the *one* copy has been issued fifty-six times. Political books are at a discount—only one in 738. Only two volumes per day issued in reference department. Of the financial position of the library the Committee are not able to speak in cheering terms.

SHEFFIELD : THOMAS HURST, Librarian.

Great increase in issues owing to the sad necessity of closing for a considerable time during the last year. A scheme for providing better accommodation for readers at the central library is under consideration. Professor Ruskin and the trustees of the St. George's Guild have decided to hand over to the Corporation the priceless treasures of the Ruskin Museum at Walkley.

SMETHWICK : JOSEPH BAILEY, Librarian.

Not a single volume was missing at stock-taking. A complete catalogue was printed during the year. There are almost 300 daily attendances at the central reading room. The two branches are well attended.

SOUTHAMPTON : OSWALD T. HOPWOOD, Librarian.

This report contains a short history of the free library. St. Mary's Hall is used as a temporary home. The first edition of the catalogue was sold in fourteen days. Library opened to the public on January 15th, 1889. Forty-one volumes belonging to the late General Gordon were given by his sister. The Committee hope that a site will soon be obtained in a central position for permanent premises. No financial statement is given.

SOUTHPORT : THOMAS NEWMAN, Librarian.

At the branch library, Churchtown, additional bookshelves have been provided. In the revenue account appears "Catalogues in stock, March 25th, 1890—20—" and the surplus of £52 shewn in last year's account seems to have vanished.

STOKE-UPON-TRENT : A. J. CADDIE, Librarian.

Mr. J. F. Campbell continues his annual subscription of £50; £10 have been spent in new books. The balance in hand has increased from £46 to £85, besides which there is a capital account of £125, which does not seem to be at interest. Tables I., II., III. do not appear to accord.



WEDNESBURY : THOMAS STANLEY, Librarian.

A subscription library has been established, and will, it is hoped, prove a valuable and permanent auxiliary. The Wednesbury Floral and Horticultural Society have handed over the sum of £20 to the funds. Report of the free library science and art classes is appended.

WHITEHAVEN : JOHN SIMPSON, Librarian.

The Public Library Acts adopted February 19th, 1887, by a majority of 748. The buildings and library of the Mechanics' Institution were accepted. On May 1st, 1888, Mr. John Simpson appointed librarian. Library opened by the Archbishop of York on May 15th, 1888. The Committee, when framing regulations, have provided that non-ratepayers resident outside, but within twenty miles of the Whitehaven Improvement District, might borrow books on payment of an annual subscription of 5s.

### **Library Association Record.**

The last Monthly Meeting was held on Monday, October 13th, at No. 20, Hanover Square.

The Rev. W. H. Tickell, 283, High Road, Lee, S.E., was proposed for election at next meeting.

The report on the Statistical Returns of Free Public Libraries prepared by Messrs. Cowell, Sutton and Madeley was read and discussed by Messrs. Brown, Davis, Edmond, Foskett, Greenhough, Holborn, Inkster, MacAlister, Mason and Tedder.

Mr. MASON (St. Martin-in-the-fields) said that he believed the circulation of statistics—he might almost say the manufacture of statistics—had caused more ill-feeling among librarians than anything else. Much of the statistical matter exhibited in some library reports was not so much provided for the librarian's ratepayers as for the librarian's brother librarians. He thought that librarians should confine themselves to simple and verifiable totals, and especially that they should not indulge in comparative tables. These tables usually contained the names of from six to twelve libraries selected evidently because they did not seem to be doing such good business as the library issuing the report. The figures relating to the library in question were printed in large type and deductions were made proving that in most respects this particular library was doing much better work than any of the others. No allowance as a rule was made for differences of population, occupation, or geographical position. These comparisons were worthless and their compilation was an altogether unfriendly and unnecessary act.

Mr. GREENHOUGH (Reading) as one of those whose habit it had been to give a comparative table of statistics, did not agree with those who deprecated such comparisons. It was, indeed, the life of the public library movement to constantly bring to the notice of the public some account of the work accomplished in our libraries, and it appeared to him that any statement was of little value unless some idea was also given of what was done in various towns. In all such statistics there should, of course, be a common basis for comparison. The population should be given, so also the stock of books, and whether volumes or works counted; the period allowed for reading should also be stated. It was not a question of glorifying one librarian at the expense of his fellows, but when such statistics demonstrated the fact that one library is appreciated more than another, it was creditable alike to the town, to the committee, to the library, and to the librarians.

Mr. FOSKETT (Camberwell) said the suggestions of the committee

might be adopted with distinct advantage. Owing, however, to varying conditions he did not think that the statistics of different libraries would furnish data from which comparisons could be satisfactorily drawn. Much could be observed by figures. He could, he said, present statistics from which erroneous conclusions might easily be deduced in regard to a temporary library in Camberwell, where in three months 4,300 borrowers were enrolled, nearly 40,000 books issued, and half the stock turned over in a single week. To compare such phenomenal work with an old established library, to the disparagement of the latter, would be misleading. In the compilation of statistics there should be the same conscientious regard for accuracy as in the keeping of financial accounts. The day-book, or sheet for recording issues was, he considered, too loose a method to be satisfactory and should be superseded by the use of borrowers' slips. It might be a librarian's duty to meet the demand for statistics for local use, but there were so many doors of temptation open to the compiler that it was desirable to avoid comparisons not evolved from a common basis.

Mr. INKSTER (Battersea) was of opinion that in a reference library, in the case of index volumes, dictionaries, directories, &c., readers ought not to be required to write for them, and they should not be counted as issues.

Mr. BROWN (Clerkenwell) said it had been his experience, while editing a monthly table of issues in *The Library*, to find that many librarians objected to comparisons on any ground whatever, while all agreed that in the absence of a common method of compilation they were necessarily misleading. He thought that the most important part of the question lay in the method of compilation. Records obtained by means of a day book or day-sheet were very untrustworthy, because left generally in charge of irresponsible juniors, while those compiled from application forms could always be relied upon. He objected to that part of the report which advised that issues be counted by *works* instead of by volumes.

Mr. J. P. EDMOND said he had hoped that the Committee would have given some definition of the term "pamphlet." Great difference of opinion exists as to what constitutes a pamphlet and what a book. He expressed the opinion that, for the guidance of newly founded libraries, a model report would be of great service in enabling them to start on good lines.

Mr. DAVIS asked whether the single back numbers of magazines issued to borrowers should be counted as volumes? It should be stated, too, whether works of fiction were issued for reading on the premises. As to "visits," it should be clearly stated whether the number included only those who entered the reading room.

The discussion was brought to a close by a hearty vote of thanks to Messrs. Cowell, Sutton and Madeley for their valuable report.

#### NEXT MEETING.

The next Meeting will be held on November 10th, at No. 20, Hanover Square, at 8 p.m. A paper will be read by Mr. Joseph Gilbert—"On some Misleading Titles of Modern Books."

The Council will meet at 7.15 the same evening.

### Practical Librarianship.

WE have received from Mr. J. J. Ogle, of Bootle, the first of a series of small pamphlets entitled *Our Town Library Reading Lists*, which we commend to the notice of all librarians. The first number contains a list



of selected books, with biographical and explanatory notes under the following headings:—Carlyle, Wilkie Collins, The Sea, Timber, Engineering, &c., Africa, and Books for Sunday School Teachers. It is impossible to estimate too highly the value of such compilations as these. Without compulsion or the slightest suggestion of impertinent dictation they afford the working classes and others sound advice and a ready answer to the question "What shall I read?" It would be a great boon to the users of public libraries if this example were widely followed, and with the help of experts free from narrow prejudices the idea could be extended to cover almost the whole range of literature, printed in small sections like the one before us. It is published at a penny. To the same gentleman we are indebted for another pamphlet, which belongs to museums rather than libraries, but as the work of a practical librarian who, like a number of his fellows, is curator of a museum as well as a librarian, we need make no apology for mentioning it. It is entitled *The Handy Guide to the Birds in the Bootle Museum*, and is preceded by Mercator's map of the world, showing the geographical distribution of the bird world. We have no space to describe it in detail, but would briefly note that it contains a selected list of English books on birds, and gives clear and concise notes on the eight orders divided into sixty-two families. The descriptions are popular in form, but appear to be scientifically accurate, and the dry notes are agreeably interspersed with appropriate quotations from the poets.

### Library Association Publications.

The Council wish to announce that they are prepared to supply the following publications at the nett prices affixed. As the stock in hand is very small early application must be made, and all orders will be dealt with in the order received.

			s.	d.
<i>Transactions</i> :	London Conference	...	10	6
	Manchester	...	10	6
	Edinburgh...	...	10	6
	London	...	}	0
	Cambridge	...		
	Liverpool	...	10	6
	Dublin	...	12	0
<i>Proceedings</i> :	Plymouth	...	4	0

*Monthly Notes* : Complete sets, 4 volumes, £2 2s. Volumes 1, 2, & 3, 7s. 6d. each. Loose parts (except Oct. and Nov. of volume II. ; Jan. and Nov. of volume IV., for copies of which One Shilling each is offered) may be obtained at 3d. each, and postage.

*Library Chronicle* : Complete sets, 5 volumes, £2 12s. 6d. Volumes 2, 3, 4, and 5, 8s. each, and loose numbers (except No. 1, for copies of which Half-a-crown each is offered), 8d. each, and postage.

Orders, which in every case must be accompanied by remittance, should be sent to Mr. MacAlister, 20, Hanover Square. Applications which ignore this request will not be answered.



# STATISTICAL ABSTRACT OF FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY REPORTS.

NOTE: Under "Year ending," the first figure refers to the month, the second to the year: *e.g.*, "3-90"=March, 1890. When no figure appears under a heading it means that the required information cannot be obtained from the report.

Name.	No. of Rept.	Year ending.	Pp.	Number of Volumes in Stock.				Volumes Issued.				Fiction Issued.	No. of Borrowers	Product of Rate.	Total Income
				Refce. Library.	Lending Library.	Branches	Grand Total of Vols.	Refce. Library.	Lending Library.	Branches.	Grand Total of Vols.				
Aston	12	3-90	16	4,845	7,239	...	12,084	16,616	67,467	...	84,083	P. C.	1,962 *	£569	£631
Barking	1	12-89	8	...	892	...	892	...	3,681 a	...	3,681	61	330	£275	£302
Barrow	7	3-90	17	2,307	13,262	...	15,569	14,545	97,938	...	112,483 b	56	2,380	...	...
Brentford	1	3-90c	16	444	2,218	...	2,662	981	5,500	...	6,481	58	476	£119	£286
Cambridge	35	...	18	10,094	21,854	5,029	36,977	9,845 d	76,607	17,624	104,076	70	3,043	£794	£903
Derby	18	9-89	31	8,825	14,836	...	23,661	23,222	124,556	...	147,778	84	5,800	£1,510	...
Hammersmith	...	3-90	7	1,405	6,870	...	8,275	806 n	48,901 n	...	49,707	60	...	£873	£946
Leek	2	3-90	14	2,338	4,935	...	7,273	5,435	23,255	...	28,690	72	236 *	£152	£367
N'castle-on-Tyne	9	3-90	35	34,299	32,670	...	66,969	40,425	261,439	...	301,864	50	9,901	£3,012	£3,232
Norwich	12	3-90	23	6,686	12,606	...	22,959	...	96,102	...	...	75	3,863	£1,095	£1,210
Nottingham	...	3-89	30	21,547	24,991	16,457	62,995	Closed.	...	52,312	...	...	...	...	...
Plymouth	13	3-9c	32	11,454	17,516	...	28,970	33,553	104,624 g	192,670	...	...	1,857 *	£1,000	£1,106
Portsmouth	6	3-90	14	4,355	18,579	...	24,010	4,009	255,908	...	...	34	2,074 *	£1,217 †	£1,285
Rochdale	19	3-90	19	12,337	29,704	[1,076] j	42,041	99,590	138,372	...	237,962	80 j	6,550	£967	£1,018
Rotherham	8	3-90	18	1,000	8,627	...	9,627	620	53,203	...	53,823	84	1,237	£543	£590
Sheffield	33	8-89	18	12,724	30,225	48,546	91,495	42,406	98,124	319,726	460,256	59	16,669	...	...
Smethwick	...	3-90	15	462	6,424	...	6,886	...	54,141	...	...	60	1,056	£382	£462
Southampton	1	...	15	931	6,632	...	7,563	3,697	28,299	...	31,996	71	2,417	...	...
Southport	15	...	10	3,041	16,586	...	...	15,196	96,074	12,152	123,422	71	1,497	£933	£1,018
Stoke-on-Trent	11	3-90	23	1,561	7,280	...	8,841	4,299	32,945	...	37,244	84	2,613	£287	£425
Wednesbury	12	3-90	27	1,821	7,136	...	8,957	4,655	56,922	...	61,577	52	282	£299	£331
Whitehaven	1	10-90	22	757	3,844	...	4,601	379 k	41,070 k	...	41,449 k	72	...	£462 l	£707 l

a-6 months only. b-Also 1,915 unbound magazines. c-3 months only. d-Not including use of books on open shelves. e-At Elementary schools. f-Including twelve reading rooms. g-Closed Sep.-Feb. h-Number of school libraries not given. i-In stock. j-Including juvenile. k-17 months. l-2 years. n-4 months only. \* New borrowers during year. † ‡ d.

## Bibliography as She is Wrote.

ALL readers of *Happy Thoughts* will remember the gentleman who, being unable to play whist, conceived the excellent idea of writing a treatise upon it to teach himself the game. Acting presumably upon the same principle, Mr. Walter T. Rogers has written a *Manual of Bibliography*; and though it is to be feared that he cannot have taught himself much, even with the assistance of illustrations familiar to him probably from his childhood, he has produced a book which may serve as a warning to those who write upon subjects about which they know nothing.

Not a few popular books on bibliography have been published of late years, which like Lucian's statue, "with its surface of Parian marble and its interior filled with rags," are more remarkable, as a rule, for the fineness of their appearance than for the value of their contents. The literary value of such books has been gradually deteriorating, but in the *Manual of Bibliography* we have at last "descended to vacuity," and the date (1891) on the title page, merely confirms what is sufficiently clear from the contents, that the work has been brought prematurely into the world—

"Deformed, unfinished, sent before my time  
Into this breathing world, scarce half made-up;  
And that so lamely and unfashionable."

The harm that such a book does is two-fold; it not only helps to continue old errors and circulate new ones, but it occupies space which might be better filled by a better book.

The first chapter, on the invention and progress of printing, begins with the old stories of the rival inventors of printing—Coster, Castaldi and Gutenberg; and short as the accounts are, they show clearly that the author has taken them from books long superseded, and that he is quite ignorant of the discoveries of recent years. Where mistakes are possible we are certain to find them, and the notices of the earliest Bibles result in confusion worse confounded, for we have the 42- and 36-line Bibles hopelessly mixed up, and a description of the Mazarine Bible given to the edition of 1462. A history of a few of the more celebrated typographers fill the chapter, which

closes with the startling information that among the printers of the sixteenth century who merit special praise are Ulrich Zell and Koburger!

Chapter II. deals with "The Book"—a wide subject. We begin with definitions of rare and good books, taken from such writers as Horne and Denis; but the information about books printed before 1500 must surely be original: "The value of these (which are known as *incunabulæ*) increases almost as rapidly as the years pass by." This is much too poetical for Horne and Denis; and "as to the meaning, it's what you please." Besides, these eminent bibliographers seem to have had some idea, which the present author has not, that "*incunabula*" was a plural noun of the second declension, and cannot be declined as a noun singular of the first. We may remark in passing that the author's Latin is throughout peculiar; in Greek he ventures only on one word, to which, however, he gives a Cockney flavour, *Ἡροδοτος*.

As to sizes of books there is much information, even down to elaborate multiplication tables for finding the signatures in all classes of books. This is not a difficult calculation to do in one's head, but we have it drawn out here in full. It is all beautifully correct in theory, but as a rule publishers and printers are men of sharp practice, and if they insist on using double paper and printing after the manner of a quarto what all librarians agree in calling a folio, the best of theories must go to the wall. The sizes of old books can be determined by their water-lines and watermarks, for in earlier days books were what they seemed, though Mr. Rogers does indeed speak of quartos which have the watermark at the bottom of the page.

"Various, and not seldom very curious, were the forms in which the early printers put the date to their publications," says the author; but even if we admit this, how much are they surpassed in curiosity by the manner in which Mr. Rogers translates them. He gives three specimens, which we here reproduce:—

Anno quingentesimo sexto supra millesimum	=	1584
Anno supra sesquimillesimum sexto	=	1506
Anno millesimo CCCC octogesimo	=	1488

These dates do indeed "put to the proof whoever should wish to explain them." But to be consistent—and a writer is nothing if not consistent, the middle date should have come out differently; in it we see perhaps the work of a collabora-



teur. After this we are not in the least surprised to find that MCDCII. means 1502 and 1602 as well.

After a few remarks on title pages, which were in these happy early times, "printed on the first leaf of the book," we come to the subject of printers' devices, and are told that Richard Tottel, a great printer of law books, had for his sign a hand holding a star, with the motto "Cum privilegio." This information will be most useful to librarians as settling the printer of many unascrbed books.

Chapter III. is devoted to the Ornamentation of the Book, beginning with the illustrations, which were until the middle of the sixteenth century xylographic! This method was exclusively used for books of prayers, philosophy, history or literature. It is hard to say what is meant by "books of literature," but at any rate, even if we take the word "xylographic" in its most strained sense, the assertion is incorrect. One book only is quoted as an example of the excellence to which Italian wood-engraving attained in the fifteenth or sixteenth centuries, but the interest attached to the engravings is far superseded by the curiosity of the book itself, which was first published in 1590, and reprinted in 1508.

The latter part of the chapter treats of binding, an art "limited at first to clumsily repairing missals," but which soon became an important artistic industry, especially in France. "It is a notable fact," says Mr. Rogers, "that besides Leonardo da Vinci, Primaticcio, and other artists, Francis I. procured from Italy and elsewhere several bookbinders, to whom probably are owing the celebrated bindings with the salamander of Francis I. and the emblems of Diana of Poitiers." There seems some confusion in this statement. We have an account of the binding rules of the British Museum as they were, but if the author had taken the trouble to enquire, he would have found that these have been considerably altered of late years.

Chapter IV. brings us to the library, the "saloon more or less vast," and concerning its position and management we are given rules which date back to the time when Naudé was librarian to Mazarin. "The library should, if possible, be exposed to the east, as the south wind favours the birth and development of insects, while damp, natural to the west, is most hurtful to books."

Rats and mice may "be banished from the library by seek-

ing and stopping up the holes by which they introduce themselves," but book worms are more crafty creatures and require all the ingenuity of the librarian to circumvent their insidious advances. If they can indeed crow, as Mentzelius affirms, Mr. Rogers must surely have heard them as he spread over his shelves the camphor and vessels of infused tobacco which he recommends as preservatives. It is hard to believe, as we read his pages, that the promoters of the Caxton Exhibition searched England in vain for a specimen.

The whole of this chapter has a foreign flavour, and is made up from the works of frivolous French writers like Rouveyre and his school; the classification lists are adapted from Brunet,—a system found in not a few other books—and the rest of the chapter is composed of extracts from various books thrown together without system or arrangement.

The book finishes with a list of the best works of reference on the subjects dealt with in the text, and considering how inferior the text was, one is not in the least surprised to find the works of Campbell, Holtrop, Madden, Bradshaw, Hessels, Hazlitt and many others entirely unmentioned. Books which are out of date or superseded are given, while the recent works on the same subjects are left out. For example, we have Boulmier's book on Estienne Dolet, but no mention of Christie's later and most excellent work upon the same printer. We have several inferior books on the invention of printing, while Bernard's *L'Origine de l'Imprimerie* is omitted. Pieters on Elzevirs is given, while Willems' great work on the subject is not mentioned. But enough has been said to show the worthlessness of this list, which is followed by a glossary of equally slovenly workmanship. We have in it no less than sixty-four English (?) words beginning with Biblio—. About a dozen of these words have been for some time in use and are recognised, many more were given by Dibdin and Hill-Burton, but here we have words that would make either of those authors blush, and are enough to cause Dr. Johnson to turn in his grave.

What reasonable person would use such words as—

- Bibliogony, the production of books ;
- Bibliographize, to write a bibliography of ;
- Bibliolatrous, given to bibliolatry ;
- Bibliomanianism, bibliomania ;
- Bibliophilous, addicted to bibliophily ;
- Bibliopolery, bookselling ;
- Bibliotheca, a bibliographer's catalogue ;

or class as English words, Bibliothecar, Bibliothecary, Bibliothèque? It is this type of word that makes the whole subject ridiculous.

The illustrations, with the exception of the coloured advertisement which forms the frontispiece, have appeared in books time after time—indeed the whole set were in a book issued by the same publishers about a year ago. And so carelessly has the present book been compiled, that the misprint of 1520 for 1502, which appeared under the facsimile of the Aldine device in the earlier book, is here repeated.

In conclusion, we would draw attention to the excellent adage, “When you have nothing to say, say nothing,” for if this advice had been followed there would be one book less on bibliography, though the world could not be said to have lost much.





## Public Library Legislation.<sup>1</sup>

**L**IBRARIANS, and others interested in public libraries, have recently been specially considering the existing Public Libraries Acts 1855-1890, and the many proposed amendments. In discussing this subject, as we cannot begin at the beginning, but must assume something, we here state that we must reject modern *laissez faire* ideas of the functions of the law-makers ; and, *pace* Mr. Herbert Spencer, and others of his school, we must, following the venerable authority of Aristotle, maintain that the State exists not only that men may live, but that they may live well. If, as we hold, free public libraries tend to this end, the question is merely what form legislation, as to such libraries, should take ? This is the question we shall try to answer.

Our readers are most of them aware, that at the last Annual Meeting of the Library Association (September, 1889) a draft bill, for consolidating and amending the Acts, was presented to the Association as the best sent in for Mr. Mac Alister's prize. This draft bill wisely proposed to repeal the existing Acts, and make one consolidated Public Libraries Act for England. Since then another amendment bill has been introduced (backed by Sir John Lubbock, Mr. Justin McCarthy, and three other members), to amend the Public Libraries (England) Acts and has now become law. It is useful, yet it is anything but a consolidation act. It proceeds upon the lines of so much modern legislation ; *i.e.*, it repeals a section of one, and part of a section of another Act, and alters the existing law here and there, in a patchwork and confusing fashion. Sir John Lubbock is an "old parliamentary hand," and it may be that it was only possible to get a bill of this piecemeal character through Parliament at present. If this is so, it is much to be regretted, for a real consolidation Act must eventually be attempted ; and it is therefore important to consider the general principles upon which future legislation should be based.

The first question which has to be faced by those who consider library legislation is—who should decide whether a public library should be established ? We do not think any

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<sup>1</sup> Read at the Annual Meeting of the Library Association, Reading, Sept., 1890.

amendment of the law as to public libraries can possibly be satisfactory, which, where there are suitable local bodies to administer the law, leaves this question to be purely a matter of special and separate voting on the part of the ratepayers. Public opinion and the legislation which embodies it should, and will soon, recognise the fact that it is as much a matter of course for municipal and other local authorities to provide free libraries, as it is to provide properly paved streets or a good water supply. No doubt where the local authority fails to do this promptly, it should be possible for a majority of the ratepayers to compel the local authority to provide public libraries. But it is much better to give ample powers, including the power of initiative, to the local authority. At corporation or local board elections the question of a free public library, like other local questions, can always be raised as others are raised; and therefore, indirectly, the opinion of the ratepayers can be clearly expressed upon it. To raise this question separately, is sure to result, as it often has, in the hasty rejection of the benefits of a public library. All the obscurantists, and selfish owners of small property, bring pressure to bear upon tenants and other interested persons, which would rarely be applied if the matter were one of the multitude of questions left within the power and to the deliberate decision of the local authority.

In most municipal towns and local board districts there is clearly an existing and fitting authority with a suitable area. The case of London is, however, peculiar. Even the draft prize bill leaves untouched the parochial limits of London parishes. But the parish, or London "district," (a combination of parishes) which is unfortunately the unit of local government in the metropolis, is not, having regard to the modern growth and changes in population and local circumstances, the true unit. Legislation on parochial lines tends to perpetuate in London old fictitious and absurd distinctions between neighbours, who may be on one side of one street. There is as yet no true sense of corporate life in Greater London. But modern legislation has recognised, and should continue to recognize, that the metropolis is one great whole. As in Paris, libraries should be provided throughout London, and not merely with regard to mere parochial opinion and parochial boundaries.

At the present time, here and there public libraries are dotted about; whilst there is no substantial reason why White-chapel should have a library and Woolwich be without one,



or Chelsea should have a library and Finsbury be without one. Libraries, like Board Schools, should be provided where they are needed. It is impolitic and impossible to appeal to the whole of the ratepayers in London at once by voting papers upon such a question as this. The proper local authority to undertake the matter would clearly be the promised Metropolitan District Councils. Failing these, the London County Council would, by committees of managers, with suitable local areas, as in the case of the School Board work, be the best London authority. Let us live in hope that in London, as in Paris and other large cities, in each district, or "arrondissement," a public library will soon be provided for the generation educated by the School Board. Outside London, and where there is no Municipal Corporation or Local Board, *i.e.*, in rural districts, there is, in default of the long promised "district councils," only a choice between the Boards of Guardians and a special body of commissioners elected for the purpose, something after the fashion provided by the existing law. The prize draft bill gave authority to the guardians. We are inclined to doubt the wisdom of this course. The work of these poor law authorities is of quite another character and extends over the large area of a "Union" including many rural and urban parishes. The register of County Council electors could in rural places settle who were "ratepayers" entitled to vote at election of Library Commissioners, and thus the difficulty of defining "ratepayers" would be surmounted.

Any consolidation bill should of course introduce many minor improvements in the existing law. It might, for example, give more ample powers of combination between local authorities for library purposes, to lend books to public institutions, *e.g.*, Board Schools, and to superannuate officers. Borrowing powers need to be increased, and Government publications secured. But two other and larger questions also need to be dealt with.

The first of these is a financial question. The local vestry may now almost starve a library, even if the penny rate be sufficient, which it often is not. No doubt there is everywhere, as standards of comfort rise, an unpleasant tendency for rates to rise also. Then comes what a staunch supporter of authority called "an ignorant impatience of taxation," and so any increase of the local rate is a grave matter. But why should not the local rate for a library, as for other educational purposes, be supplemented by a conditional, imperial, or government grant?



In London, moreover, where the richer parishes now often pay half the amount of parochial rates paid in poorer parishes, the penny rate, or part of it, should clearly be equalized as a common metropolitan charge, and it might be aided by some local contribution raised by the intended London district councils in their smaller areas. This would check any tendency to local extravagance.

The other and final question is as to supervision by some central authority. We have referred to a government grant as "conditional." It would manifestly be necessary to apply and distribute it with some regard either to the comparative efficiency of the local public libraries, or, better still, to all which were fairly housed and equipped with books and staff. Englishmen have a wise jealousy of centralization. But it seems to us that local authorities would not be unduly hampered by inspection of libraries, or criticism and suggestion by a competent Government inspector. The principle is very successfully applied to elementary education, poor law and many other branches of local administration, and it is quite consistent with the ideas expressed by modern writers, *e.g.*, John Stuart Mill, as to the respective functions of local and imperial government.

Friends of popular education will look forward to the time when a consolidation bill can be introduced and carried through Parliament; even if a smaller amount of time is given to some of the burning party questions which now occupy the too exclusive attention of our lawgivers.

GEORGE WHALE,

Author of *Greater London and its Government*.

Sept., 1890.



## Some Misleading Titles of Modern Books.<sup>1</sup>

STAGNATION is abhorrent to the true librarian. If he maketh statistics he would almost sooner see those statistics erroneous than stagnant. He hardly looks with a favourable eye on that too regular reader who comes day by day, and sits, and dozes in the same corner, without seeming ever to go and put what he learns into practice. More pleasant is it to see a healthy flow in and out of brisk and busy people, who come for a purpose, achieve that purpose, and depart soon and satisfied. The true librarian hardly cares that the public should leave him alone too much. A constant fire of questions and references may worry him a little when he is very busy, but he would rather have his wits kept sharpened that way, and enjoy the pleasurable feeling that folks are being helped by him, than have the quiet half-hour that he wants so badly for that little piece of literary work.

The empty shelf, cheerfully beckoning to him with suggestions of how he may fill it up, is pleasanter to his sight than the dull, blank, stony stare of the books that will not move. In *their* presence he feels himself a policeman, and as they will not move on, he takes them up, with a view of enquiring why they are such standstill objects, in these rapidly moving times.

Strange, almost paradoxical it seems, the fault, in not a few cases, proceeds from the authors—the very men who would rather they should have any kind of cut than that “most unkindest cut of all”—the readers cutting their acquaintance. It is not unnatural to find that the title is often the “head and front of this offending.” Literature is one great House of Lords—every member has a title. If that title fitly designates the member, well; but if not, there are stern democrats abroad, and we shall see what will happen. There is a book, published last year, a biography of Graham of Claverhouse. I am told it is a fairly good one, several reviewers think so, and of course, so does the author; but did he think that all those readers of fiction, who seeing his title, *The Despot's Champion*, on the back, got out that book from the library, and prepared themselves for the enjoyment of a thrilling romance, would be tempted

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<sup>1</sup> Read before the Library Association, November 10th, 1890.

under false pretences to read his life of Claverhouse? That were expecting too much of fiction-reading human nature. No, it comes back the next day, unread, and the librarian who looks through it, to see if it is returned in good order, might, on a closer inspection, detect the remains of an imprecation between the leaves. But, of more consequence than the disappointment of those who, expecting literary pickles to help down the cold meat of their daily toil, find it is the dry bread of history, is the loss of those who desire to read a biography of Claverhouse, and miss this book.

Another recent case is Mr. Mallock's work *In an Enchanted Island*. When people hear that the author of *The New Republic* and *The New Paul and Virginia* has written *In an Enchanted Island*, small blame is due to them if they think it is a novel, or fail to know that it is a traveller's description of Cyprus; and if it is written for from the far end of the kingdom and the circulating librarian procures it on purpose, there is something more than disappointment abroad. Count Leo Tolstoi, who has written several powerful and successful novels, has also written some books of a philosophical and religious character. How can those who have read his novels gather from the titles, *My Confession* and *What to do*, that these are not fiction? And still more of a trap is another work of the same writer, *Life*. In the usual working abbreviation of titles it is Tolstoi's *Life*; but the natural inference that it is the life of Tolstoi is a long way from being correct. An apparently companion work, *La Mort*, is a novel, but the translator has avoided error here by altering the title to *The Death of Ivan Ilyitch*.

A very similar instance is *Boy Life*, by the Archbishop of Canterbury. It naturally gets called Benson's *Boy Life*, but is far from being an account of the early life of the prelate. C. Booth's *Life and Labour in East London* would seem to imply that the work was on the life and labours of Mr. Booth. But these are accidental and perhaps unavoidable cases. And here I would lodge a general objection to authors calling biographies by the title, "A story of," as for instance, Ewart's *Story of a Soldier's Life*. What is there to distinguish this from *Annals of an Eventful Life*, and show which is fiction and which is history? Why is *Through the Long Day* a biography, and *Through the Long Night* a novel?

Why is a biography called *Faint, yet Pursuing*, and a novel *The Last of the MacAlisters*? Certainly if finality is implied, the mem-



bers of the Library Association had rather the latter was and would remain fiction. For many a long year *The Diversions of Purley* has been food for *our* diversion, as a misleading title, but we can tolerate that for old acquaintance' sake. But how is the title, *Shadows of the Past*, a simple biography of General Kenyon, to indicate what it is? And oppositely, *The Memoir of Arthur Hamilton*, by Christopher Carr, has no sign about it that it is a work of fiction by Arthur Benson. I know that it was for a considerable space of time in more than a few libraries on the shelves devoted to biography. *Mistress Mary Powell's Maiden and Married Life* has had the same experience. *Life in the Cut*, coming out just at the time when public attention was turned to the slums of London and the toilers in them, was naturally taken for a description of the New Cut in Lambeth, but is a work of fiction about canal life. No doubt, the authoress thought that *Chronicles of an Old Inn* happily described her little book, which follows the lines of Mr. Dowthwaite's excellent *History of Gray's Inn*; but I found that it was generally expected to be a work of fiction like Dickens' *Holly Tree Inn*. Mrs. Craik's life of John Martin, conspicuously lettered, *A Legacy*, is another case. *Cetewayo and his White Neighbours*, by Rider Haggard—all his other works being stories—was, and still is, continually giving rise to disappointment. I am not here speaking of the extraordinarily stupid reader, but the average one. Of course strange mistakes are daily being made by the former. One lady who wanted a good biography, when I, in my enthusiasm for the memory of Henry Bradshaw, offered her his life, first mistook him for the president of the court which tried King Charles I.; and, finding that was wrong, supposed he was the originator of Bradshaw's guide. (But she read the book and liked it, to the great benefit of the literary element lurking in her benighted soul.) I have not gathered together all these examples for the sake of making up a paper, but because I think the ambiguity, or worse, of these book-titles is a serious impediment to us librarians, and, as I have said, defeats the author's primary object. We want to make our catalogue entries as nearly transcripts of the title pages of the books as our limitations of cost and space will allow, but we are pulled up by this fact that the titles in no way describe the subjects or nature of the books.

If authors will not mend their ways we shall have to do so

for them, and we shall, perhaps, be ordering lettering pieces with proper titles, to cover up the mis-descriptive ones of the authors; and let them beware, for if once we begin so to take the matter in our own hands, we may be tempted to revenge ourselves for the trouble given to us by a few descriptive but uncomplimentary epithets.

The librarian is essentially the helper both of author and reader, but if either hinder their helper, whence cometh their help?

But I have another indictment to bring; this time against the reviewers, or editors of reviews. There is a fashion, much on the increase lately, of putting catchy sensational headings to everything that is printed in newspaper or review, sometimes to every paragraph, generally to every article. This custom, working upon the imperfection of the authors' titles, to which I have been calling attention, leads the reviewer or his editor to invent a better, or at any rate a more catching title, with which he heads his article. The *Literary World*, to the general usefulness of which every librarian can testify, is an important offender in this matter, and I chiefly draw my examples from it, because, according to my experience, it is the main source from whence circulating library readers draw their knowledge as to what is best to read, the summarization of the subjects being complete, perspicuous and concise; and the extracts, as a rule, most happily chosen. But the result to the librarian (which is our chief concern) is that the readers order their books by the reviewers' headings instead of the real titles, and puzzlement is the result.

It is not obvious that "The Sport of the Wheel" means the volume on cycling in the Badminton Library, but this may be guessed at; but when D'Assiers *Posthumous Humanity* is called "The Shades of Night;" Mackay's *English Poor* is called "Individualism versus Socialism," *Modern Men by a Modern Maid* is called "A Young Lady's Indictment," it takes more than a good long memory to recall, after several weeks, the names of the books to which these reviewers' titles are attached. "An Old English Book Lover," which is the heading of the review of Thomas's *Philobiblon of Richard De Bury*, does not sufficiently describe the work. "Literary Moonlighting" heads the review of, but does not sufficiently describe, *St. Bernard's*, the hospital romance. "Irish Historical Lore" is a serious title which would send the librarian groping in any other direction rather than to the



humorous Irish anachronisms which go by the name of *Through Green Glasses*. True, the real title of the books is given at the bottom of the page; but the reader, as a rule, carefully copies the heading of the review, and misses the real title. I have had many cases where readers have been already supplied with the book really reviewed, and yet have insisted on being supplied with the imaginary one, the title of which has been invented by the reviewer as a heading to his article, positive that it was another work by the same writer. Mrs. J. E. Panton's work *By-paths and Crossroads* is called at the head of the review "Country Sketches," and it so happens that she had previously written a work really entitled *Country Sketches in Black and White*. Naturally much confusion between the new work and the old one ensued. A serious work on anti-vaccination, entitled *Jenner and Vaccination*, was dubbed by the reviewer "That wicked Jenner." The result was that a very indistinct writer ordered it, and set me searching long and vainly for it as "That Wicked Jennie," not unnaturally thinking it must be a sensational novel.

I was baffled for a long time in searching for a book called "A Trip to Mars," and eventually found that this was a reviewer's title for a book called *Mr. Stranger's Sealed Packet*. By what mental process can a librarian find out the connection between these two titles, short of reading both the books and the reviews—from which fate may heaven deliver him!

But I have yet more complaints to deliver myself of, at the risk of being reviewed under the title of "A Librarian's Growls."

A very little trouble taken, or a simple question asked of any custodian of a large library would avoid the not infrequent case of two books totally different, having the same title. Between *Master of his Fate* by A. Blanche (Griffith and Farran, 1886), and *Master of his Fate*, by Cobban (Blackwood, 1890), who is to distinguish which is wanted when only the name is given? It is much worse when Ludovic Halévy in 1889 calls his book *Souvenirs et Portraits*—the very same title which F. Halévy had used for his book in 1861. You are asked for Halévy's *Souvenirs et Portraits*, and which are you to send?

*Mine own Familiar Friend* has been twice taken for the title of a novel by different authors. *The Guardian Angel* has been done by Mrs. Mackarness in 1864, and Oliver Wendell Holmes 1867; but this may be owing to the one coming from America.

One more growl and I have done. Authors or publishers have lately taken to republishing a book and altering its name. A



book appeared in 1888 as *The Rebel Rose*, three volumes, author's name not given, and it was only just passably successful. The copyright of this work was sold to another publisher, and he produces it in a one-volume edition and calls it *The Rival Princess* and announces the writers' names, Justin McCarthy and Mrs. Campbell Praed. People will not believe that they are the same work until the two are put before them side by side. So *Poor Wisdom's Chance* becomes in a cheap edition *Vera Nevill*. *The Lass that Loved a Soldier* is transformed into *Black Blood*. *Great Grand-mamma Severn*, in the *Leisure Hour*, becomes *A Hurricane in Petticoats*, and she is trotted out in three-volume form, having, one would think, been made young again for such a metamorphosis. The transition from the respectable Religious Tract Society, in Paternoster Row, to naughty New Burlington Street, has made the old lady rather wild, apparently. Some publishers are in the habit of publishing translations of French novels, altering the name entirely, and putting neither on the title page nor elsewhere in the book the name of the original work. Thus *Les Epreuves de Raissa*, is translated, and called *A Noble Woman*; and *L'Ame de Pierre*, *A Weird Gift*, and the publishers' assistants were unable to give the original titles of these works.

And now I have told the tale of my grievances. I am aware that the circumstances of public librarians differ so far from mine that behind the protecting breastwork of their indicators they escape some of these difficulties. Their readers have to reverse the process used in dealing with a refractory cabby, or policeman who won't tell the time, and first "take the number" of the books and then argufy; while I am exposed to the chance of being collared summarily, and made deputy receiver of critical punishment, as if I had deliberately concocted the misleading titles myself.

But one special value of the Library Association is that librarians of one branch of experience can claim a hearing from those of another. I have listened with pleasure and profit to papers on circumstances peculiar to the free public library, the medical library, and others, and now seek your sympathetic ear to my tale of woe; that so the grievances, which would not be listened to by the public, coming from half-a-dozen circulating librarians, may claim a hearing coming from a body like the "Library Association of the United Kingdom."

JOSEPH GILBURT.

## Rosencrantz and Guldenstern.

ROSENCRANTZ and Guldenstern, the two well-known courtiers in *Hamlet*, who always appear together, and who always think, act, and speak alike, possess so many personal and individual traits of character that we might justly assume the author here represents two men drawn from life, and it has now been proved that this was really the case, and that the two inseparable friends were contemporaries of Shakespeare.

This discovery is due to Dr. Heyel, librarian-in-chief of the Royal Library at Stuttgart, who has found on a leaf in a genealogical album, supposed to have belonged to Duke Frederick I. of Würtemberg, the following written annotations immediately below each other :—

1577.

In utraque fortuna ipsius fortunæ esto memor.

Jörgen Roszenkrantz.

1577.

Ferrendum et sperandum.

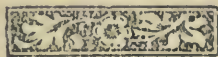
P. Guldenstern.

Professor F. A. Leo, of Berlin, editor of the *Jahrbuch der Deutschen Shakespeare-Gesellschaft*, describes in his last issue this remarkable find, and publishes a facsimile of the leaf and lines in question.

It may be added that the princely owner of the album was a great traveller, and undertook several journeys to northern lands. In fact, the first inscription in the album is in the handwriting of King Frederick II. of Denmark, and also dated 1577, whilst on the leaf bearing the notes of the two friends “Haffniæ” (the ancient name of Copenhagen), is indicated as their place of domicile.

In the opinion of Professor Leo, some English actors who visited the Danish capital and saw the two inseparable friends, had on their return described them so graphically to the great playwright that he was tempted to use them in *Hamlet* as “local colour.” The spelling of the two foreign names appears to have given some trouble, as in the first edition of *Hamlet*, issued in 1603, we read “Rossencrafft and Gilderstone,” but in a later edition, “Rosencrans and Guyldensterne,” and finally, “Rosencrantz and Guldenstern.”

Dr. Botte has inquired into the history of the two well-known Danish noble families whose names in the present day are spelt "Rosencrantz and Gyldenstjerne," and finds that one Jörgen (George) Rosencrantz died in Copenhagen in 1597, and another of the same name in 1608, so that either of these must be the writer in Duke Frederick's album. Moreover, a Holger Rosencrantz, who died in 1576, was married to one Karin (Catherine) Guldenstern, so that we may even assume, with every degree of probability, that Shakespeare's two celebrated friends were first cousins.



### Still the Old Tales.

(To May and Gwen, with *The Blue Fairy Book*).

Still the old tales, whatever new  
The fickle years shall bring us too,  
The tales as dear to us as home,  
The old familiar fairydom  
Our great, great, great grandfathers knew.

To read when summer skies are blue,  
When autumn draws the shutters to,  
When winter with its fires has come,  
Still the old tales !

And here, dear May and Gwen, a few  
Within this book, I send to you.  
Let fickle other people roam  
In quest of newer fay and gnome,  
To these old tales *we'll* still be true—  
Still the old tales !

RICHARD LE GALLIENNE.



### Sir Theodore Martin on Reading.

Sir Theodore Martin presided on October 16th at a concert given at the Town Hall of Llangollen on behalf of the public library of that town. Sir Theodore said that about four years ago, when he made an appeal from that platform for the establishment of a public library in Llangollen, among the persons then present was the profound thinker and great poet Robert Browning, who had since, to the sorrow of all who knew him, been taken away. Mr. Browning showed his sympathy with the effort which was then resolved upon by being among the first to offer a contribution to their library in a copy of the works not only of himself but of his greatly gifted wife. He also interested Mr. George Smith, (Smith, Elder, and Co.) his publisher, in their behalf, and from that gentleman came complete editions of the works of Thackeray, of Thackeray's daughter, of the Brontes, and of Mrs. Gaskell—an invaluable foundation for the department of the library which was devoted to fiction. During the year ending the 30th of last month, 3,303 volumes had been taken out, and it was to be hoped read. Books had been taken from every branch of the library, including theology, philosophy, biography, history, voyages, art, science, natural history, poetry, and the drama; but they would not be surprised to hear that the books most read had been works of fiction. The total number of other works read was only 811, while 2,492 volumes of novels had found their way into the hands of readers. Most other libraries, he believed, told the same tale, and if they were to look upon this as likely to become the permanent average the disproportion was not wholly satisfactory. Far be it from him to protest against a reasonable indulgence in the delights of good novels and romances. If for nothing else, they were most valuable as widening the sphere of our sympathies by taking us into scenes and enlisting our interests in characters beyond the routine of our every-day lives. Who was there who had not risen from reading a fine work of fiction without feeling as if they had been living among men and women who would influence their actual life and possibly mould their character in the days to come? A taste for reading might be thus acquired, and readers might, it was to be hoped, be led into studies which required continuous and somewhat laborious attention, either in natural history, biography, poetry, or science. Let any young man or woman once thoroughly appreciate the fact that the "dainties," to use Shakespeare's expression, that are to be found in books, may help them in the formation of a worthy character, and leave a taste upon the palate which never palls, and the charm of the infinite preciousness of good literature would open upon their eyes, they would come in time to understand all the force of Milton's noble saying, "A good book is the precious life-blood of a master spirit embalmed and treasured upon purpose to a life beyond life." While it was gratifying to find that it was the best works of fiction which were most in demand in our public libraries, it was strange that many of the finest of Scott's novels remained comparatively unread, such as *Rob Roy*, *Guy Mannering*, *Old Mortality*, *The Fortunes of Nigel*, *The Fair Maid of Perth*, *The Talisman*, and others, while there was a run upon *The Heart of Midlothian*, *Ivanhoe*, and *Kenilworth*. It was a pity, too, that of Bulwer's novels *The Caxtons* should be overlooked, and *Kenelm Chillingley*, an altogether delightful book, full of ripe experience of a long life, and a love story in it touched with infinite delicacy. Then how came it that Dickens's *Martin Chuzzlewit* found few readers, and George Eliot's *Scenes from Clerical Life* and her exquisite *Silas Marner*? He mentioned these to show to those whom it might concern that there were book dainties to be found in their library far beyond any that the prolific press of the day could give them. It was a wise saying of an ancient writer that true wisdom "was to read not many books, but to make a

good choice, and then to read much." What he should like to see when he next examined the records of their library would be that the young men and women who resort to it mixed their reading of lighter works, some with books of science, in which the marvels of earth and sea and heaven shall be brought home to them; some with biographies of great and good men, which, in the trite language of Longfellow, may remind them they should "lead a life sublime;" some with history, in which they may see why nations have risen to greatness, why they have degenerated into decay; some with natural history, which would make every object that lay around them in field and river, in woodland and mountain, teem with interest; and some with books of travel in which, without stirring from their fireside, they might explore well nigh every region under the sun.

### Findings.

It is curious to contrast the papers and discussions at a meeting of the Library Association of the United Kingdom with those of our American cousins. While they are wholly practical and utilitarian, we indulge in papers that might with equal appropriateness be read before any literary or archæological society.

At the Reading Meeting, with the exception of the President's address, the only practical papers were those of Mr. Greenhough and Mr. Campbell. The first provoked a good discussion, but Mr. Campbell's could only have been profitably dealt with if members had been provided with printed copies in advance.

It would add greatly to the value of the Annual Meetings if all discussable papers were printed and circulated before the meeting. Very often the discussions bring to light more new facts than are given in the papers, and this would be more frequently the case if advance copies of papers were sent to members having special knowledge of the subject treated.

That an exception proves the existence of a rule is prettily illustrated by the mighty fuss the papers are making over Mr. Gladstone's curious mistake as to the regulations in the British Museum Reading Room. Instead of, as he stated, readers being prohibited from replacing books on the shelves—the regulation "particularly requires readers to replace them." Mr. Gladstone's mind is such a marvellous, common-place book of well-arranged facts that such a slip on his part is extraordinary. So accustomed have the public become to regard him as a living encyclopædia, that an error like this provides copy for the penny-a-liners for a week.

The late Dr. Schiller-sziessy's valuable collection of Hebrew, English and foreign works was sold by auction at Cambridge, by Messrs. Jacobs and Hast, on the 27th November. To those who take an interest in Hebrew literature, this sale offered a rare opportunity for acquiring some scarce old books, comprising among others the Talmud Babli with Commentaries, a Commentary on the Pentateuch, dated 1699; Abarbanel's Commentary on the Pentateuch, 1539; *Midrash of the Mecheltah*, 1545; *Etica Aristotelis*, translated into Hebrew by Isaac Salanav, (complete 1790), &c.



Mr. George Clinch is a most industrious worker. He has scarcely launched his *Bloomsbury and St. Giles's* when he announces that a new work, *Marylebone and St. Pancras* is on the stocks and will shortly be ready. It promises to equal, if not excel, what may be called its companion work, but if, as the prospectus states, only the "Southern part" of St. Pancras is dealt with, we would urge before it is too late that this important fact should appear on the title page. Future searchers for facts relating to north St. Pancras will not bless Mr. Clinch if they are led to procure his book by a misleading title.

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The *Daily Graphic*, of October 24th, in reference to M. Jules Simon's complaint that *Robinson Crusoe* bores the schoolboy of to-day, says :—

The Modern Schoolboy is either bloodthirsty or sentimental—or both. At a certain age he conceives a *tendresse* for some blonde beauty in the neighbouring establishment for young ladies, and he then likes to read about other boys who have had similar attachments, which have eventuated at the hymeneal altar. At any age he is attracted by a fight, and "bluggy" works of fiction fascinate him. These simple tastes *Robinson Crusoe* fails to gratify. It is a novel without a heroine, and the bloodshed in its pages is but a thimbleful compared with the gallons, not to say the firkins of that fluid poured out by the pens of our modern romancers.

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Mr. Robertson, the Public Librarian of Aberdeen, promptly challenged this libel, and in the following letter brought down the sledge-hammer of fact on the egg-shell of the *Daily Graphic's* theory.

SIR,—The note in the *Daily Graphic* with regard to "what boys read," and the fear that the once fascinating *Robinson Crusoe* has ceased to attract the modern schoolboy, is certainly not borne out by the experience in the Public Library here. With nine copies going, I find that during the last six months the work has been issued just 162 times, an average of eighteen times for each copy, which is about as often as it could well be. In library parlance, the book is never on the shelf—that is, no sooner does it come in than it goes out again before it can be put away. —Yours obediently,

A. W. ROBERTSON, Librarian.

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The late Mr. Chandler, arguing against giving permission to lend books out of the Bodleian Library, dwelt forcibly on the inconvenience sustained by the student who finds that the book he has come to read is on its travels, and added, "Every man is sure that he can at once get any book whatever that he finds in the catalogue of the British Museum." The attention of the late Superintendent of the Reading Room, now Keeper of the Printed Books, having been directed to this statement, he replied as follows, veiling the little imperfections of the Reading Room in "the decent obscurity of a learned language :"—"Ita, mehercle, res se habet ; nisi liber iste surreptus fuerit ; seu amissus, aut saltem non inventus ; seu obsoletus et concinnatoris indigus ; seu ab alio scriniorum compilatore postulatus ; seu ab adolescentulo bibliothecae inserviente, animi recreandi gratia, nulla tessera relictâ, ab armario detractus ; seu apud dominum janitorem remotus ; seu a muribus exesus ; seu propter pulverem haud facile agnoscendus ; seu unus inter ducentos super eundem pluteum incomposite collocatos ; sive forsitan, libro alias translato, prisca notitia libraria nihilominus in catalogo exstiterit ; seu catalogus ipse negligenter exaratus fuerit ; seu sphalma aliquid typographicum irrepsit ; seu ob alias quascunque causas diabolo soli notas, quasque, ut ait cl. Dundrearius, nullus homo exquirere queat."

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Ratepayer, *quâ* Public Libraries Act, "shall mean every *Inhabitant* who would have to pay the Free Library Assessment in the event of the



Act being adopted" (s. 3, 40, and 41 Vic., c. 54): that definition includes Compound Householders whose rates are paid for them under the Poor Rate Assessment Act, 1869, 32 and 33 Vic., c. 41 (*Attorney-General v. Croydon*, 58 *Law Journal*, ch. 527).—*Judicial Dictionary*, by F. Stroud 1890.

The younger Franciscan Fathers at Experies have been engaged for some time on a catalogue of the library of their monastery. The collection dates from the 16th century, and is said to be rich in incunabula. Prof. Michael von Latkoczy, who has paid great attention to the "Kulturgeschichte" of Experies, will edit the book, which, it is understood, will appear at no distant date.

The death is announced from Iceland of Bishop Dr. Petur Peturson, at the age of eighty-one, one of the most learned Icelandic scholars of the century.

An interesting discovery has been made in the state archives of Weimar, consisting of over 100 Acts concerning the assassination of Kotzebue, and which also throw light upon the so-called "Burschenschaft" and its doings in 1819.

Professor Posdneeff, of St. Petersburg, the well-known Orientalist, has just discovered in the National Library in Paris a Manchu MS., which is, no doubt, the only one of its kind in existence. It consists of 161 leaves of China papyrus, in covers of yellow silk—the imperial colour. The leaves contain some hieroglyphics hitherto unknown.

The two national libraries in Berlin have lately been counted, and it has been found that the number of volumes has hitherto been overestimated. Thus, the Royal Library was estimated to contain about 1,000,000 volumes, but the actual number is 797,974, which includes 24,024 MSS. The University Library has been found to contain 137,792 volumes, a number considerably below the estimate.

Writing from Iceland, Dr. Jón Torkelson, the well-known Icelandic scholar, states that during his visit last summer to this country in connection with the publication of the work *Diplomatarium Islandicum*, in order to examine the Norse MSS. to be found here, he made some valuable discoveries in the British Museum. Among them is a parchment fragment of the original of some MSS. by the Norse Archbishop Eilif Arnason, dated 1331, containing much of interest respecting the condition of Norway in the fourteenth century. Likewise he found a collection of MSS., also hitherto unknown, by the celebrated Icelandic historian and ecclesiastic, Gottskalk Jonsson, written between 1543 and 1593, the contents of which are very varied and of great importance, as there are many texts from the Icelandic Sagas which appear to have been lost. But of greatest interest is perhaps a copy of a MS. hitherto unknown, by Sœmund Frode (1133), and which throws a great deal of light upon the writings of that eminent historian.

The Rev. Edgar Hoskins, Rector of St. Martin's, Ludgate Hill, has reprinted from the *Guardian* of April 9th, for private circulation, his interesting account of *The Layman's Prayer Book at the Tudor Exhibition*.

We are glad to see that the important services rendered by Mr. W. H. K. Wright in connection with the National Armada Memorial, are to be substantially recognised, and that a committee has been formed with

the object of presenting him with a public testimonial. Subscriptions may be sent to Mr. Charles F. Burnard, Mannamead, Plymouth.

Some months ago we announced the forthcoming publication of *Arcana Fairfaxiana Manuscripta, or Ye Apothecarie his Booke*. The editor, Mr. George Weddell, of Newcastle-on-Tyne, has now succeeded in tracing the history of the book from generation to generation, from about Elizabeth's time to George III., and has from public records identified the handwritings of a number of the Fairfaxes, who were owners of the book. His introduction will include, besides an account of the MS. itself, a historical sketch of the Fairfax family, and descriptive notes on the various handwritings. The number of copies is limited, and as there will be no subsequent issue, the original lithographic impressions are being destroyed as the sheets are printed off. The work will be issued about December 20th.

The Library Commissioners in one of the London parishes recently served a precept upon the rating authority for an amount which was considered to be the maximum product of a penny rate for the year, but found when the rate was collected that they had not asked for sufficient as a balance remained in the hands of the rating authority. It will be of interest to know that the Local Government Board auditor approved of this balance being secured by the Commissioners by means of a *supplementary* precept.

Max Moltke, a distant cousin of the Field-Marshal, is sub-librarian of the Library of the Leipzig Chamber of Commerce, and he recently attained his seventieth birthday. It is stated that the "whole city waxed enthusiastic" over the event. In his early years Max was a soldier, and fought for Hungarian independence under Kossuth. At the close of the insurrection he fled to Berlin and took to authorship. Of late years he has resided at Leipzig, and has done a great deal of work for the book-sellers. Among other books which bear his name is a popular edition of Shakspeare, which has been very widely sold in the Fatherland.

The members of the Richmond Athenæum have chosen a most graceful way of testifying their appreciation of the services of their Hon. Secretary, Mr. Frank Pacy, the Librarian of the Richmond Public Library. They have voted a sum out of their annual surplus as a donation to the Public Library, thus paying a double compliment to Mr. Pacy's services to the Athenæum and to his disinterested zeal for the Public Library.

## Old Proverbs adapted for Library Use.

BY QUID NUNC.

One person can lead a subscriber to the card catalogue ; but forty cannot make him use it.

The early subscriber (sometimes) gets the new book.

The book agent is the thief of time.

There is many a slip 'twixt the card and the printed catalogue.

— All's not literature that litters.

The bookworm will turn if trod upon.

Short accounts make long subscribers.

Time and the Annual Report wait for no man.

(*Library Journal*.)



## THE LIBRARY CHRONICLE.

### Record of Bibliography and Library Literature.

Nouvel Armorial du Bibliophile. Guide de l'amateur des livres armoriés. Par Joannis Guigard. Tome premier. Paris : Emile Rondeau, libraire, 1890. 8vo, pp. v., 390.

This instalment of the new edition of Guigard's *Armorial* deserves a hearty welcome. According to the compiler's new division the work is henceforth to be in four sections, the first giving the arms of members of Royal Houses, the second of book-collecting Ladies, the third of Ecclesiastics, and the fourth of amateurs who are neither royalties, ladies, nor priests. Each of the first three sections has its own distinguishing mark—the crown, the double, or the lozenge-shape scutcheon, the mitre or cardinal's hat—while the absence of any of these marks sufficiently denotes a member of the remaining class. Search is thus made easy, and a brief treatise on heraldry, and an index of armorial bearings provide further helps. Almost every coat described is illustrated from rubbings, and a brief biography is given of its possessor. Although about the size of the complete edition of 1873, this first volume contains the names of members of the first three classes only; the fourth, and much the largest, is yet to come. We notice with regret that while M. Guigard's new edition professes to be cosmopolitan, its treatment of English amateurs is very perfunctory. Among English sovereigns, only Elizabeth and the last three Georges obtain any mention, and these are disposed of very perfunctorily in a page and a half. So, too, among the ecclesiastics, we search in vain for any mention of Cranmer or Parker. But in his treatment of his own countrymen M. Guigard leaves very little to be desired, and it is, of course, with Frenchmen that nine-tenths of his book is concerned.

Bibliotheca Lindesiana. Catalogue of a collection of English Ballads of the XVIIth and XVIIIth centuries. Printed for the most part in Black Letter. Privately printed, 1890. 4to, pp. xiii., 686.

This handsome volume contains a catalogue of a collection of 1466 old ballads, arranged in the order of their first lines. For the disregard of the fantastically-worded titles which this plan involves, Lord Crawford asks the indulgent consideration of bibliographers. But in a special catalogue of ballads the plan commends itself at once, while a most elaborate index of titles takes away any possible disadvantage by which it could be attended. The adherence to the titles of ballads is a necessary evil in the case of general catalogues, and frequently involves the separation of two editions of the same song under different headings, and the confusion of two or more distinct compositions which happen to have passed under the same name. To get rid of these errors is the happy privilege of the specialist, and Lord Crawford may be congratulated on having been the first to avail himself of it. To pass from the catalogue to the ballads themselves, Lord Crawford informs us that his collection has grown up in late years, mainly from purchases made at the Ouvry and Jersey sales. It would be still richer than it is but for the rare generosity displayed by the owner in 1885, when, finding that he had unwittingly been bidding—and bidding successfully—against the British Museum, he presented the museum out of his new purchase with the sixty or seventy



ballads of which it possessed no duplicates. To abstain from bidding against a national institution is good; but to bid and buy, and then to give, shows a still rarer generosity.

**Bibliographical Miscellanies.** Nos. 3, 4, 5. Books in Chains. By William Blades. *Blades, East and Blades*: London: August, 1890. 8vo, pp. 62.

The date upon this pamphlet, so near to that of the authors' too early death, recalls afresh the greatness of his loss. Like all Mr. Blades' work, the present monograph is distinguished by its thoroughness. Probably few persons are aware that there are upwards of four-score parishes in England in which books are still, and have been until quite recently, kept in chains. At Hereford Cathedral there is a large chained library of about 2000 volumes, while smaller ones, ranging from 42 to 300 volumes, are preserved at Turton, Bolton School, Wimborne Minister, Grantham, and All Saints, Hereford. Of the different books kept in smaller collections Mr. Blades gives a list of forty-three, still preserved, mostly, however, in a sadly dilapidated state. *Fox's Book of Martyrs* and the Bible are the two most popular, while Bishop Jewel enjoys the distinction of having no less than seven distinct works so preserved; his *Defence of the Apologie of the Church of Englande*, being a good third to "Fox" and the Bible in point of number of copies (six). In Mr. Blades' brief introduction, extracts are given from various workmen's bills for fixing or renewing chains, and eight photographs of chained libraries help to make clear the manner in which the books were kept and used. The rest of the monograph consists of a list of eighty-four places in which chained books were formerly preserved, with the replies of the officials responsible for them, to Mr. Blades' enquiries as to their present condition. We believe that the MSS. of one or two further numbers of these *Bibliographical Miscellanies* were left by Mr. Blades in a fairly advanced state, but in the presence of such admirable work, it is sad to remember that there is so little more which we can hope for from the same source.

**Bibliothèque publique de Versailles.** Catalogue des Incunables et des livres imprimés de MD. à MDXX., avec les marques typographiques des éditions du XVe siècle. Par M. Pellechet. Paris: Alphonse Picard, libraire, 1889, 8vo, pp. viii. 302. (Printed at Dijon.)

By a ministerial circular published February 15th, 1886, the officials of all the municipal libraries in France were bidden to prepare catalogues of the *Incunabula* under their charge. Of this circular the volume before us is one of the results, and if it is followed by many more of a similar character all bibliographers may be grateful to the French Government for its benevolent decree. M. Pellechet has catalogued the early books under his charge in the most elaborate and satisfactory manner, and we only regret that their number should be so small. But to have accurate descriptions of even 208 fifteenth-century books, and of 228 printed between 1500 and 1520 is a clear gain, and we may hope that other French libraries, while presided over by cataloguers no less careful than M. Pellechet, will be able to record a larger proportion of early books. The Versailles Library is of recent date. In 1795 the École centrale de Seine et Oise was allowed to select 30,000 volumes from the spoils of the religious houses suppressed by the revolutionary government. On the abolition of the Écoles centrales in 1803 this Library was transferred to the municipality, under whose care it has since remained. Of its small stock of early books the greater part come from the suppressed monas-

teries, no less than twenty-two of which have left, in manuscript notes or book-plates, some traces of their former ownership in volumes here catalogued. But in addition to these works of monastic origin a considerable number of early printed books have been presented to the Library within recent years by the well-known bibliographer, himself a native of Versailles, M. Madden, whose death in June of last year took place when some of the sheets of this catalogue were already at the printers. For the books presented by M. Madden, M. Pellechet had the advantage of that veteran booklover's own notes, and with these and other aids he has made the very utmost of the works he had to describe, not only giving the fullest possible collations and references to Hain and Panzer, but reproducing in facsimile the marks of the fifteenth-century printers, and adding particulars of many interesting bindings. The order of the catalogue is alphabetical according to the authors' names—a plan not very well suited to a list of incunabula, but here rendered harmless by a good index of places and printers. Among the more important treasures we note the edition of Cicero's *Epistolæ ad Familiares* by Sweynheym and Pannartz (Rome, 1467), the same printers' sermons of Leo the Great (1470), a fine copy of *La Mer des Histoires* (Paris, Pierre La Rouge, 1488), and some good Jensons.

I due rarissimi glcibi di Mercatore nella biblioteca governativa di Cremona. Notizia per G. Buonanno, direttore di quella biblioteca. Cremona: 1890, 8vo, pp. 39.

The identity of these two globes appears to have been only discovered in November of last year, but Sig. Buonanno has lost no time in putting together a learned and interesting account of them, in which he falls rather foul of a certain Sig. Ceradini, who apparently shared in the discovery and had not the courtesy to waive his claim to its publication in favour of the Director. The terrestrial globe bears the inscription: *Edebat Gerardus Mercator Rupelmontanus cum privilegio Ces. Maiestatis ad an. sex. Lovanii an. 1541*, while the celestial one is dated ten years later. As only five other pairs are known to exist, the presence of these globes in the Library of Cremona naturally arouses the question: how did they get there? Sig. Buonanno's reply is both interesting and satisfactory. The globes bear on them the stamp of a Jesuit College founded in the sixteenth century, and until the time of the Empress Maria Teresa the occupant of the buildings now appropriated to the Library. The founder of the College was Cesare Speciano, a bishop of Cremona, who, on his death in 1607, bequeathed to it his library. Now in 1592, two years before the death of Mercator, the bishop had been sent to Germany as papal nuncio, with a special mission to the Court of Cleves where Mercator was Ducal Cosmographer. The inference is obvious that he there made Mercator's acquaintance, and that these globes were brought to Cremona on his return in 1598, and formed part of his bequest to the Jesuit College.

The Venetian Printing Press: An historical study based upon documents for the most part unpublished. By Horatio F. Brown, with twenty-two facsimiles of early printing. London: John C. Nimmo, 1891 [Oct., 1890]. 4to, pp. xvii., 463.

The scope of Mr. Brown's book may best be expressed in his own words:—"In this study," he says, "I trace the history of the Venetian press from its introduction, through the sixteenth century—noting especially how press legislation grew up, preceded by custom and practice, and then formulated in law; how the government dealt with such ques-



tions as copyright, protection and censorship ; how the Guild of Printers and Booksellers was founded and governed ; how the book trade came under the influence of the Index and the Inquisitorial censorship, and how the Republic endeavoured to protect the trade, thereby involving itself in a long struggle with the Church of Rome—till we reach the slow decline of the Venetian press through the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries in spite of the legislation which was designed to preserve it."

In his preface Mr. Brown speaks with great modesty of his own bibliographical attainments, but the chapters devoted to the history of the half century (1470-1520) during which the Venetian press was in all its early glory, if they do not throw much fresh light on the subject are at least a competent *résumé* of what has already been written. The question of the misprinted date (1461) in the *Decor Puellarum*, which, if correct, would make it the first book printed in Italy, is discussed once more and an adequate account is given of John and Vindelinus of Speyer, of Jenson and of Aldus. Mr. Brown has also been fortunate in discovering the accounts for the year 1484 of a Venetian bookseller, which appear no less important than those of John Dorne of Oxford, which in the hands of Mr. Madan and Mr. Bradshaw yielded such interesting results. But the specific service which Mr. Brown has rendered to literature in this book begins just at the point where the bibliographer's interest in the Venetian press becomes less keen. The first law of the Republic on the subject of copyright was passed in 1517, the establishment of the Censorship dates from 1526. By these two measures the State assumed the responsibility for the regulation of the trade, and the rest of Mr. Brown's book is devoted to an examination of the manner in which those responsibilities were fulfilled. The Church came to the help of the State and proved such a vigorous coadjutor that the Republic again and again had to do battle to preserve its printers and booksellers from being regulated out of existence. Matters came to a crisis at the end of the sixteenth century in the quarrel between the Republic, with Fra Paolo Sarpi as its spokesman, against the Pope and his power of excommunication and interdict. The nominal victory rested with the State, the substantial with the Pope, and the history of the Venetian press during the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries is one long record of decline. A hundred years after the controversy the Republic could devise no better method for fostering the trade which had once been one of the chief glories of Venice than the miserable expedient of allowing her printers to baffle the Inquisition by the use of false dates and imprints! A more bitter argument against censorship is surely not to be found in all Milton's *Areopagitica*.

Premiers Monuments de l'Imprimerie en France au xve Siècle, publiés par O Thierry-Poux, conservateur du Département des imprimés à la Bibliothèque Nationale. Paris: Librairie Hachette et Cie. 1890. Large folio, pp. 24, with forty sheets of plates. (Price 60 francs.)

There is only one possible ground on which the most captious critic can find fault with this magnificent book, and that is for its size, which forbids it to find a place upon any ordinary bookshelf. Everything else is delightful. The forty large sheets of heliographic prints cater for the taste of every class of book-lover. Those who love first editions of famous works will find reproductions from the *Grand* and the *Petit Testament* of François Villon and from the immortal farce of *Maître Pathelin*. For the amateurs of wood engravings there are three full pages from the



block book of *Les Neuf Preux*, in which the Nine Worthies are shewn in all their glory, and many more finely executed illustrations from the French Chronicles. All the curiosities of the title-page, especially the wonderful development of the initial L, are duly set forth, and the beautiful devices of the old French printers are reproduced with a perfection which will henceforth make the pages of the useful but inartistic *Silvestre* appear little less than repulsive. So much we may say by way of recommendation to those who care for old books chiefly because they are pretty, —an excellent reason, by the way, though at times despised by the enthusiasts. But bibliographers of the sterner sort have no less reason to be grateful to M. Thierry-Poux than the weaker brethren. Printing was exercised in France during the fifteenth century at no less than forty-one different places, and by upwards of one hundred and fifty printers. Of the work of every one of these printers some specimen is given, with a collation of the book from which it is taken, and brief bibliographical notes. On its learned side M. Thierry-Poux's album may thus claim to approach the merits of Holtrop, while the superior grace of the French printers, and the attention which they early paid to every branch of the decoration of books, renders it far more interesting to the amateur.

Catalogue of Early Belfast Printed Books, 1694 to 1830.  
Compiled by John Anderson, F.G.S., Hon. Secretary to the  
Linen Hall Library. New and enlarged edition, *Belfast*,  
1890. 4to, pp. 85, xi.

We gladly welcome this new and enlarged edition of Mr. Anderson's Catalogue, which, although not professing "to be finally complete, may yet be taken to include the title of every work known to have been printed in Belfast between the years 1694 to 1830." The importance of local enterprise in writing the history of printing cannot be too much insisted on; and that every provincial town may find such a bibliographer as Mr. Anderson is our most earnest wish. The list before us presents certain peculiarities and advantages which are worthy of notice. In form it is tabular, presenting the date, author, short title, size, printer, and owner or reference—all in one line. By cross rules between the different dates one sees at a glance what books are known to have been printed in any given year, and consequently the presumed activity of the press in Belfast. But in bibliography, as in geology, great allowance must be made for the defects in the record, for in twelve several years, within the period, no books are known to have been published, and in as many as six years the list names only one book for each year. The catalogue has been compiled from two kinds of sources, viz., the books themselves, and such records of books as are of sufficient authority. By a happy distinction in the type we know at a glance to which of the two sources we are indebted for a title—those taken from the books themselves being in roman, and the others in italic letter. The appendix contains a long note on Blow's *Bible*, printed in Belfast in 1751, a List of Belfast Printers, 1700 to 1830, a List of Belfast Booksellers and Printers for the year 1819, and a List of Belfast Newspapers and Periodicals, 1700 to 1830. Mr. Anderson has accomplished his work so well that we feel it is almost ungracious to mention the desirability of an index, which would have greatly improved the book.

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We have on our table a "List of the Parsiyapanas Jâtaka, the five hundred and fifty birth stories of Gautama Buddha; compiled by

N. D. M. de Zilva Wickremasinghe," Assistant-Librarian of the Colombo Museum. We note that the list is divided into decades and that the compiler has received much assistance from Velivitiye Dhammaratana Unnânse, of the Vidyodaya College, but we do not feel ourselves competent to criticise it.

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One of the most useful bibliographies now appearing is that appended to each successive number of "Subjects of the Day, a quarterly review of Current Topics," edited by Mr. James Samuelson (Routledge). The plan of this excellent publication somewhat resembles that of the "Pamphleteer," so celebrated in the latter days of George III., except that instead of the contributions appearing in the shape of isolated pamphlets, a quantity are united in a single number, each number being devoted to a single subject of urgent importance. The subject of the last number is Home Rule, and the bibliography appended will enable the reader to inform himself thoroughly either upon the Home Rule controversy in its entirety, or in any of its aspects. This will appear by an enumeration of the sections into which it is divided :—Historical Works on Ireland ; works in favour of Home Rule ; works against Home Rule ; works on the agricultural and industrial resources of Ireland ; works on Land and Land Tenure ; reports on the Land Question and Land Acts ; works on general Irish politics ; biography, &c. ; works on Colonial Home Rule, and selected magazine articles. The whole occupies nine pages, large 8vo. The compiler is Mr. J. P. Anderson, of the British Museum, so well known for his excellent bibliographies in Walter Scott's "Great Writers" Series.

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The last published volume of *The Dictionary of National Biography* brings the work into letter H, and as volume succeeds volume every quarter with most exemplary regularity, the middle of the alphabet will soon be attained. No work can have stronger claims on the support of librarians, for while indispensable to every one who reads, it is beyond the means of most readers. It is therefore especially appropriate to a public library, and no library of any pretensions can be complete without it. Unfortunately those libraries which have neglected to take it from the first find themselves greatly embarrassed by the long and ever augmenting series of back volumes. The publishers, we should think, would find it to their advantage to make some arrangement to facilitate purchase of the back volumes by persons desirous of presenting them to libraries. Liberality towards a free library could hardly be more usefully exhibited than by a gift of the set.

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We have received the *Ninth Annual Report of the Dante Society*, Cambridge [U.S.A.], 1890, to which is appended "Dante Bibliography for the year 1889," by William Coolidge Lane, assistant librarian, Harvard College Library. In a prefatory note the compiler intimates that the Italian Dante Society having now undertaken to record the appearance of Dante publications, there is a probability that the bibliography of which this is the fourth instalment will be discontinued. The list is divided into two sections—Editions of Dante's Works, and Books and Articles on Dante.



## Library Notes and News.

*The Editor earnestly requests that librarians and others will send to him early and accurate information as to all local Library doings. The briefest record of facts and dates is all that is required.*

*In course of time "Library Notes and News" will become of the utmost value to the historian of the Free Library movement, and it is therefore of the highest importance that every paragraph should be vouched for by local knowledge.*

Contributors should send a memorandum of their contributions to the Editor at the end of each quarter, and a remittance will be promptly forwarded.

ABERDEEN.—The Town Council has resolved to promote a bill in next Parliament for the purpose, amongst other things, of making the municipal boundary of the burgh co-extensive with the parliamentary boundary. If the bill is passed, the effect would be to largely extend the district served by the Public Library, and to increase the rate at the committee's disposal. The library presented by the late Sir John Anderson to his birthplace, Woodside, would also come under the jurisdiction of the Aberdeen Public Library Committee. Miss Emma E. Valentine has been appointed senior assistant in the reference department at a salary of £50.

ALTRINCHAM.—The trustees of the Altrincham and Bowdon Literary Institution have intimated that there are too many difficulties in the way of its being handed over to the Free Library Committee of the Altrincham Local Board. It has therefore been decided to formulate a scheme for a free library, independent of the Literary Institution.

AYR.—We have already announced the adoption of the Acts here, but it may be useful to place on record that the poll showed 2015 votes for, 123 against.

BARKING.—We are indebted to Mr. George Jackson for the following particulars. The lending department of this Library completed the first year of its operations on the 31st of May last. During the year 9,100 volumes have been issued, and the number of borrowers is now over 300. The number of books (800 a year ago), has grown chiefly by donations to near 1,600. The lending department is open for three evenings in the week, and the average issue is now about 100 per night, the highest number yet reached being 140. As the town is inhabited almost wholly by working people, and as opponents predicted failure at its commencement, the committee feel very well satisfied with the result of their enterprise.

BELFAST.—The reference department of the Belfast Free Library was formally opened on November 1st by Mr. C. C. Connor, mayor of the town.

BOWDON, LANCS.—This parish, one of the wealthiest in the neighbourhood of Manchester—of which it is really a suburb—has rejected the Libraries Acts. The proposal was to unite with Altrincham, and utilize an existing institution in which both places have an interest. The matter has been complicated by a variety of extraneous considerations, and it is expected that the question will be raised again in a more favourable form. Meanwhile the Altrincham committee—where the Acts have been adopted, and where there are some endowments known as the "Mayor's Fund"—can proceed independently.



BRADFORD.—*The (Bradford) Illustrated Weekly Telegraph* of October 18th contains a well-written article on "Charles Kingsley and Eversley." It is evidently written by one who had the advantage of visiting Eversley with the Library Association of the United Kingdom and of listening to Mr. Suffield's admirable paper. The description is excellent. The article is signed W., and we do not think we shall be much astray if we ascribe it to Mr. Butler Wood.

BRIGHTON.—*The Brighton Guardian* of October 22nd contains a most interesting article entitled "A Year's Work at the Library." It reviews the progress of the Library during the first year of its existence, and incidentally makes an able defence of the supply of fiction as a legitimate and essential function of the Free Library.

BURNLEY.—The question of a free library is being taken up with some vigour by the Burnley Trades Council.

CHISWICK.—H. J. Hewitt, assistant at the Fulham Free Public Library, has been appointed Librarian of the Chiswick Public Library.

DUBLIN.—*The Irish Times*, August 16th, has an article on St. Sepulchre's Public Library, Dublin—otherwise called Marsh's Library—which owes its origin to the liberality of Dr. Narcissus Marsh, a 17th century Archbishop of Dublin, who designed it "to be for the use of all persons who should resort thereto at the hours appointed for the library-keeper's attendance, and are willing to conform to the rules and directions of the governors thereof." The present librarian is the Rev. G. T. Stokes, D.D., Professor of History in Dublin University.

EDINBURGH.—Mr. Gladstone during his recent visit to Edinburgh took the opportunity of calling at the Signet, Advocates' and Free Public Libraries.

LEOMINSTER.—In 1889 the Public Library Acts were adopted in Leominster. The "out parishioners" protested, and the vote was pronounced void by the Local Government Board. The promoters have tried all in their power to meet the objections raised by the out parishioners, and, at the recent poll, on the voting papers the ratepayers were asked if they favoured the proposal to impose upon the out-parish a rate of only  $\frac{1}{2}$ d. 1056 voting papers were issued on November 3rd. On November 10th the Town Clerk reported to the Town Council that the result of the recent vote was a majority in favour of the adoption of the Acts of 332, and of 19 in favour of imposing the full 1d. rate on the out-parish. The Council thereupon after a warm discussion appointed a committee of sixteen persons, eight to represent the Council and eight to represent those promoters of the scheme who were not on the Council. Cost of taking the poll £38 9s.

LONDON : DEPTFORD.—The parish of St. Paul, Deptford, has been polled on the question of adopting the Acts. The number of papers issued was 11,351, but only 4,182 valid votes were recorded. The papers were collected on Monday, November 17th, and counted on Tuesday, when the result was made known by Mr. T. W. Marchant, the returning officer, as follows:—Against the adoption, 2,424; for the adoption, 1,758; majority against, 666. Is this a mere coincidence, or have we at last discovered the true significance of the mystic "number of the Beast?"

LONDON : CHELSEA.—Mr. Henry Young, one of the Commissioners, has very generously presented three relievos, which will be placed on the wall of the staircase leading to the Reference Library, but in a position to be seen from the entrance hall. They are the original models of the triptych by the late J. Birnie Philip, under a commission from the

Queen for the adornment of St. George's Chapel, Windsor, and are particularly interesting to Chelsea, as the sculptor resided at Merton Villa, which stood on the site now occupied by the new Library building. The subjects are "The Ascension," "Christ appearing to His disciples," and "Jesus saith unto her 'Touch me Not.'"

LONDON : GREENWICH.—An animated discussion took place at the Greenwich Vestry on October 20th, on a motion of Mr. E. Pascoe Williams, that a special committee be appointed to consider the application of the Free Libraries Acts to Greenwich. The proposal was seconded by Captain Ommanney, R.N., and eventually carried by fifty votes against one dissentient.

LONDON : HOLBORN.—On October 30th a meeting of the inhabitants of Holborn was held in the Town Hall, Gray's Inn Road, to consider the adoption of the Free Libraries Acts in the district. Mr. Gainsford Bruce, M.P., presided. Mr. T. H. Wyld proposed, and Mr. Speaight seconded, a resolution declaring the desirability of establishing a free library for Holborn. Mr. Jacobs (Holborn District Board of Works) moved the following amendment :—"That in the opinion of this meeting it is inexpedient at present to increase the already too heavy rates of the district by the formation of a free library." The Rev. F. Thorne, vicar of Holy Trinity, Gray's Inn Road, seconded the amendment. Mr. A. Hoare, L.C.C., and other representative and influential residents spoke in favour of the resolution. After some very stormy proceedings the chairman announced that the show of hands was equally divided, forty-five voting for the adoption of the Acts and an equal number against. The meeting then broke up without any decision being arrived at.

LONDON : LEWISHAM.—The Vestry has accepted the decision which limited the rate for the Free Public Library to a halfpenny in the £, and have appointed nine commissioners, Mr. D. K. Forbes, of Sydenham, being the chairman, and Mr. S. Brabrook, F.S.A., of Lewisham, vice-chairman. At their first meeting they decided to appoint a librarian at a salary of £120 a year with allowance for house; his age to be between 25 and 40, and previous experience indispensable. The remoteness of Blackheath and Sydenham from Lewisham proper, will necessitate at least three libraries, so that there will be quite enough to do with the £900 a year which the ½d. rate will produce.

LONDON : NEWINGTON.—The result of the voting on the question of the establishment of a Free Library for Newington was made known on October 29th. The figures are as follows—For, 2,841; against, 2,048: majority for, 793. There were 4,349 spoilt papers, these having been returned either unsigned or without stating "yes" or "no." There were 3,486 removals.

LONDON : POPLAR.—A crowded public meeting was held on October 30th at the Poplar Town Hall, in support of the project for the adoption of the Acts in Poplar. A large amount of local support has been accorded to the movement, nearly £3,000 having already been promised. Mr. W. P. Bullivant, who presided, stated that it was proposed to erect two suitable libraries: one (the main building) in the East India Road, and a branch library in the Isle of Dogs. For this purpose £15,000 would be required, and it was intended to raise as much as possible, first from the ground landlords, the manufacturers, and shipowners of Poplar, and afterwards to obtain help from some of the City Livery Companies and other outside sources. It was computed that a local 1d. rate would bring in about £900 per annum, and this would be enough to efficiently maintain the proposed libraries. After a speech from the Bishop of Bedford, Mr. S. Buxton, M.P., proposed,



"That in the opinion of this meeting it is desirable for Poplar to have a Free Library." This was seconded by Major Welby, and carried unanimously.

LONDON: ST. GEORGE'S, BLOOMSBURY.—At a public meeting of the ratepayers of St. George's, Bloomsbury, and St. Giles-in-the-Fields, held on October 21st, the following resolution, proposed by Mr. Walter Blott, seconded by Mr. W. H. Fenton, and supported by Mr. Gainsford Bruce, M.P., Rev. Boyd Carpenter, and others, was carried unanimously:—"That a Free Library for St. George's, Bloomsbury, and St. Giles-in-the-Fields is desirable."

LONDON: ST. MARYLEBONE.—The library movement in St. Marylebone is gathering strength, and the two libraries already established by the local association are extending their work in a most satisfactory manner. Among the more important recent gifts have been a second donation of 500 volumes from J. Passmore Edwards, Esq., and 50 volumes from Sir F. Pollock, Bart. An appeal is now being circulated in a portion of the borough for a voluntary  $\frac{1}{4}$ d. rate. Should a fair response be made, the premises at Lisson Grove will be doubled in size, and a Children's Library will also be established. It is also proposed to open a Reading Room and Reference Library in St. John's Wood, or Portland Town, as the demand upon the accommodation afforded by the two established libraries is much greater than can comfortably be supplied. The daily issue of books at the Lisson Grove Library now reaches 150. At the East Marylebone Library it is about 100. The attendance at each of the reading rooms is upwards of 500 a day. 1,300 borrowers' tickets have been issued, and there is a joint stock of 9,000 volumes. A course of five winter lectures has been begun. Among the lecturers are, the Rev. Mr. Diggle; Dr. B. W. Richardson; Dr. Norman Kerr; and Mr. Thos. Greenwood. The committee contemplate making another attempt to secure the advantages of the Libraries Acts in or about February next.

LONDON: WEST HAM.—The Free Libraries Acts have been adopted in this parish by 9,953 votes against 3,535.

NEWCASTLE-UPON-TYNE.—The Public Libraries Committee are about to introduce the incandescent electric light. Although comparatively a modern library (the lending department being opened in 1880, and the reference library in 1884), very considerable damage has already been done to the bindings by gas, besides very serious injury to the decorations. The reference library has recently acquired, by means of a public subscription, a very valuable addition in the "Gibson Conches:" a collection of original water-colour drawings of shells, by the late George Gibson, Architect, of Newcastle-upon-Tyne, in sixteen portfolios, containing 1,965 separate sheets ( $13\frac{3}{4} \times 9\frac{1}{2}$ ). There are in all 7,260 full-sized coloured drawings from nature of 3,025 species or varieties of shells, finished with an intelligence likely to make the collection for a long time unique, whether considered as works of art or of natural science. Some years ago this collection was valued by Messrs. Children & Gray, the then heads of the Natural History Department of the British Museum, for the Radcliffe Library, Oxford (at that time in treaty for their purchase), at £500. Since that time the number of designs has been nearly doubled, and the whole collection carefully catalogued according to the genera of Lamarck, so that, at the present moment, the actual value of the collection may be estimated at £1,000.

NOTTINGHAM.—Mr. Briscoe, the Librarian of the Free Public Libraries, has projected a series of "Half-Hour-talks with the people, about books and book-writers," in connection the branch libraries and



reading rooms at Nottingham. Among the lecturers are the Town Clerk, the Professor of English Literature, and the Master of the High School. The subjects include "Charles Kingsley," "George Eliot," "Sir Walter Scott," "Newspaper Reading," "History of the British Parliament," &c. Mr. Briscoe, completed his twenty-first year of office in September last. The members of his staff have availed themselves of the occasion to present their chief with a very pleasing testimony to the relations that exist between them. The testimonial took the form of a beautifully illuminated address, the work of Mr. Gooch, a member of the staff.

**SOUTHAMPTON.**—The Southampton Town Council have passed a resolution asking the authority of the Local Government Board to build a new Free Library on a spare corner of the public parks.

**STOCKTON.**—On October 30th a meeting of the ratepayers of South Stockton was held in the Market Hall to consider the desirability of adopting the Acts. Mr. John Steel, chairman of the Local Board, presided, and read a letter from Mr. T. Wrightson, of Norton Hall, in which that gentleman offered, if the ratepayers decided to adopt the Acts, to build a suitable library on a central site at a cost of £1,500, and to present it to his fellow-townsmen. Mr. J. Parry moved "That the Libraries Acts be adopted," and stated that promises of support had been received from other gentlemen. Mr. C. Arthur Head seconded the resolution, which was supported by Dr. Thomas Watson, and carried unanimously. A poll of the ratepayers will be taken.

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**NORTH MIDLAND LIBRARY ASSOCIATION.**—The second meeting of this association was held at Newark-upon-Trent on Thursday, October 9th, the chair being occupied by the President, Mr. Briscoe (Nottingham). Mr. Midworth (Newark Stock Library) read a paper on "A Librarian's Duty towards his Readers," which gave rise to an animated discussion; and Mr. Briscoe contributed "Notes on early Newark Printing and Book-sellers." Specimens of early Newark typography were exhibited. Afterwards the Gilstrap Free Library, the proprietary and parish libraries, and the private library of Mr. Branston were visited. It was decided, on the invitation of Mr. C. V. Kirkby (Borough Librarian, Leicester), that the next meeting of the association should be held at Leicester on Thursday, December 11th. The meeting aroused much interest in Newark, the local press giving full reports of the proceedings. As a result of Mr. Briscoe's remarks on the parish church library the question of its removal to the Gilstrap Free Library has been raised in the Town Council.

#### FOREIGN.

**TASMANIA.**—So far as information can be obtained, there were thirty-five public libraries open to the public during the year 1888. In all they contain 63,259 volumes. The receipts for the year amounted to £2,402, in addition to £677 by the Government. These libraries are open at convenient hours during working days, and appear to be well attended.—*Tasmanian Official Record*, 1890.

**COLOMBO MUSEUM.**—A most interesting account of the work accomplished during last year is to be found in the *Ceylon Administration Reports*, 1889, Part IV., *Miscellaneous*. Although opened as long ago as 1877, the present is, in reality, the first authorised annual report

on the library, and in it full particulars are given of the earlier history of the institution. As now constituted, the library in Colombo Museum is the result of a wise amalgamation of several libraries. These were the library of the Ceylon Branch of the Royal Asiatic Society, the Government Oriental Library, and the Free Public Library. In his report the librarian, Mr. F. H. M. Corbet, deals at considerable length with the progress made in the various branches of library work, such as bookbinding, cataloguing, and exchange of publications; the difficulties he has to contend with in the first-named are happily to a great extent unknown in home libraries. Most important information is given on books relating to or printed in Ceylon, and we earnestly hope both branches of literature may receive all the attention that they deserve in a collection which is national in character and purpose. The report teems with matter of so great interest that we can do little beyond saying that the MS. records of the Dutch administration of the Island are noticed at some length. These documents, "fast crumbling to pieces from dust and neglect," it is proposed to transfer from the Government Record Office to the Museum Library, and as soon as the necessary accommodation for the 6,500 folio volumes is provided they will be removed and made accessible to the public. Perhaps the most interesting portion of the report is that which deals with the collection of the literature of Ceylon, "much of which remains enshrined in old manuscripts." By purchase and loan for transcription wonderful progress has been made in collecting these ancient writings; and if we consider the difficulties of long journeys (for "except by inquiry on the spot and personal inspection," it has been found impossible to procure them) and the very limited funds at the disposal of the institution, we think that for number and importance the list of purchases will compare most favourably with any similar institution in the world. Mr. Corbet's "able and zealous assistant," Mr. de Zilva Wickremasinghe, gives a summarised description of the manuscripts added to the library. Of course there are a certain number of statistics, but with so much of greater importance to select from we must content ourselves by merely observing that they show steady progress and increasing appreciation in the institution.

THE REV. ERNEST C. RICHARDSON, the accomplished Librarian of Hartford Theological Seminary, has been chosen to succeed the late Dr. Frederic Vinton as the head of the library at Princeton University.

### Library Catalogues.

Cheltenham Public Library. Catalogue of the Lending and Reference Departments, including the "Day Library of Natural History," with "Key" to the Indicator. Compiled by William Jones, Chief Librarian. 1890. Royal 8vo, pp. viii, 296.

Each department is catalogued separately on the dictionary plan. Volumes of collected essays and polygraphs have their contents set out, but periodicals have not been so treated on account of the expense. The total number of books catalogued is over 17,000 volumes, including the very valuable collection, of about 1,200 volumes, presented by the Misses Day, as a memorial of their father, Francis Day, author of numerous works on Fish and Fish Culture.



Christ Church, Southwark, Free Public Library. Supplement to the Catalogue of the Lending Library. 1890. 8vo, pp. 14.

In double columns, the first word of each entry being in small capitals. The list is carefully compiled, and although the actual misprints are few, the large number of "wrong founts" in so few pages is a serious disfigurement.

Warrington Museum. Catalogue of the Lending Department of the Library. 1886. Foolscape 8vo, pp. 229. Supplement. 1890. Pp. 35.

This neat little catalogue is prettily printed in modern type, the subject headings being in capitals of the same fount. The whole is arranged under one alphabet, and every book is entered under author and title, while works on history, science, philosophy, &c., are found under the subject as well. The chronological arrangement under these subject headings is worthy of notice. Under geographical heads the books are arranged in order of the period to which the books refer. In a long series the works which cover the whole history of the country head the list, followed by the rest in chronological order. Under all headings other than historical and geographical, the arrangement is by date of publication. This plan has the great advantage that under science headings the latest authorities are always found together at the end of the list.

Catalogue of the Books in the General Subscription Circulating Library at Reading, first established by Mr. George Lovejoy, in 1832, purchased by Miss Langley, in 1884. *Reading*, N. D. 8vo, pp. 378.

An exceedingly well got up list, divided into two great classes, General and Fiction. The compilation has been made with care and skill, and the printer has avoided crowding his pages, so that the effect is agreeable and the use of the Catalogue a pleasure.

Borough of Stalybridge. Catalogue of the Books in the Public Free Library. Compiled by Thomas Aldred, Librarian. [1890.] Crown 8vo, pp. 282.

A fairly good catalogue, compiled on the dictionary plan, but containing some blunders, which might have been detected in passing through the press. The compiler distinguishes works of fiction by printing the press-number in old style type; but *Blind Love, a novel*, *Old Fogey*, by Max Adeler, *Garrison Gossip*, and *Stanley Thorn, a romance*, have the numbers in modern type. Possibly they are "books with misleading titles." The use of bars without discrimination seems to place a novel entitled *Fairy Lilian* to the credit of Sir G. B. Airy; but the full title of the story is *Airy Fairy Lilian*. We naturally turned to Edmund About, the French writer, to see if he had fared like Sir G. B. Airy, but we were pleased to find that the initial word was repeated in that instance. Names beginning with *De*, such as *De Chaumont*, *De La Rame* (*sic*), &c., have the prefix only printed in heavy type, and between *De Leon* and *De Quincey* we find *De Omnibus Rebus*.



## Reports of Libraries not under the Acts.

Paddington Free Public Library (supported entirely by voluntary contributions). Second Annual Report for the year 1889. pp. 30.

First annual meeting held at the Paddington Vestry Hall. Subscriptions and donations amount to £517 2s. 9d. The number of books has increased from 1,537 to 3,146; 2,695 books used in reference library. Limited income prevents the opening of a lending library. Meeting of ticket holders to consult with librarian is held once a week. On June 1st the portrait of Mr. Frank Moss, hon. secretary, was presented to the library. Mr. Alfred Caddie is librarian and secretary.

Bethnal Green Free Library, E. Thirteenth Annual Report, 1888-89. pp. 52.

The report of this excellent institution contains an interesting account of the annual meeting. The library contains 38,835 vols. The number of persons attending the library lectures and classes is estimated at 50,000 being an increase of 8,000 on the previous year. The income from subscriptions and donations for the year is £1,670 19s. 5d., of which sum £800 as per special appeal has been transferred to maintenance account, leaving the sum of £870 19s. 5d. The expenditure for the year is £837 14s. 8d. The present accommodation is insufficient. Mr. G. F. Hilcken is secretary and librarian.

Library and Club, Deptford (Messrs. Frederick Braby & Co., Limited). Twentieth Annual Report, 1889-90. pp. 24.

A retrospect of the twenty years the library has been established fills page 1. 3,270 vols. in the library, and 1,892 vols. have been lent home to read, during the year. Every possible help given to readers. The Saturday afternoon visits were well supported. The work of the Club presents many pleasing features. Mr. George R. Humphrey is hon. sec. and librarian.

Nottingham. The Fifty-Second Annual Report of the Nottingham Mechanics' Institution, adopted. . . January, 31st, 1890. pp. 23.

The library contains 20,937 vols., and the year's issues totalled 91,937 vols., being 5,712 more than those of 1888. There were 1,419 vols. acquired during the year. The sum of £637 was expended in the purchase of books, periodicals, and newspapers. The reference library includes a local collection. Mr. J. T. Radford is librarian.

Bristol [Proprietary] Library and Museum. Report of proceedings at the Nineteenth Annual Meeting. pp. 12.

The number of subscribers to the library alone is now 343, being 27 more than at the end of the previous twelve months; and in subscribers to the library in conjunction with other departments, there is also a slight increase, the numbers being 79 instead of 77. About 470 vols. were added by purchase and 68 by gift. The library is being re-catalogued. The total income of the institution was £972. Mr. E. R. Norris Matthews is the librarian.

Glasgow. Report for the Ninety-Ninth year of Stirling's and Glasgow Public Library (1889-90); with proceedings at the Annual Meeting of subscribers held on 8th April, 1890. pp. 24.

This is on the whole a very satisfactory report. The year's issues from the lending department were 69,495 books and 36,401 magazines, being a daily average of 347 against 338 in 1888-9, and in the reference department 135,209 books, 36,401 magazines and patents, 35,933—being 9,672 more than in the preceding year. There were 920 volumes and pamphlets acquired during 1889-90. The number of subscribers fell from 932 to 885. The debt which stood at £1,967 19s. 6d. at the commencement of the year has, through the energy of the directors and the liberality of friends been reduced by £967 11s. The ordinary income for the year was £865, which includes £375 for rents. Mr. W. Hutton is the librarian.

Island of Guernsey. Guille-Allès Library and Museum. pp. 14.

This little pamphlet contains a view of the reference department and of the Cotgreave Indicator, a note on the library, and an abstract from the Annual Report for 1889. Books issued were 34,266 from the lending library, 1,607 from the reference and 2,570 magazines making a yearly total of 38,443. Special advantages conceded to visitors to the island. List of periodicals and newspapers and a list of works relating to Guernsey.

### Notes on Books.

Pages in Facsimile from a Layman's Prayer Book in English, about 1400 A.D., containing mediæval versions of the Lord's Prayer, *Te Deum*, *Magnificat*, &c., edited from the originals in the British Museum, MS. 27, 592. By Henry Littlehales. London: Rivingtons, 1890. Cr. 4to, pp. xii., and 14 facsimiles.

That "half a loaf is better than no bread" is well exemplified in the work before us, and we cannot be too grateful to the judgment and good taste of Mr. Littlehales who gives us though it be but "pages" of facsimiles of such an interesting manuscript as forms the subject of this volume. The MS. is certainly a remarkable one if we consider that it is the earliest known example of all that long series of books of devotion called by the generic title *Prymer*, the varieties of which are so numerous and indicate so many changes in Church and State. While we feel that every encouragement should be given to the production of facsimiles, yet in the present instance we could have wished that the reproduction had been confined to one page, and that the text of the *Prymer* had been printed in full. This would have been a decided gain, as we naturally wish to ascertain what extent the vernacular bears to the Latin in such a MS. From the title we might infer that it was wholly in English, but as the pages selected "are amongst the most interesting in the volume, and afford mediæval versions of the Lord's Prayer, *Benedicite*, *Magnificat*, &c.," it may be that in the remaining pages a greater proportion of Latin will be found, which language is confined to the title of the psalm, or the first word of the Act of Devotion, in these selected pages. It is generally allowed that in MS. *Prymers* there is a greater proportion of the vernacular than in printed editions of the same period. But we believe it is admitted that in the printed editions the proportion of the English increases as the tide of the Reformation rolls onwards, the



amount decreasing during the back-current of the reign of Queen Mary. We can only account for the anomaly of the MS. copies containing more English by the jealous supervision exercised on the Press by the Church, which dreaded any hasty changes in books of offices, while the laity seemingly had their taste for vernacular prayers gratified in the MSS. which could not be controlled to the same extent as the printed books. Of the sixty-one leaves remaining in the MS. (for unfortunately it is imperfect) twelve have been reproduced. The last two facsimiles in the book are taken from other MSS., and have little connection with the Prymer. The process of reproduction has been most successfully carried out, but it is much to be regretted that no clue is given to the position of the pages in the original.

In his interesting introduction Mr. Littlehales acknowledges his indebtedness to Maskell's *Monumenta Ritualia*, as every one must who writes on this subject, but he professes to treat the matter from a different standpoint. He modestly terms it a "slight sketch," and such it undoubtedly is; but while he contests that his opinions are based on extracts and references which are given—and those who cannot agree with him must form their own conclusions—we are bound to confess ourselves one of that number. It is stated on p. vi. that "the Prymer was a Prayer Book in English for the use of the laity," and by that we must understand a book of private devotions, whether by way of offices or otherwise. But on p. viii. we find "that our Book of Common Prayer . . . took the place of the Prymer," and farther down "the Book of Common Prayer, therefore, is a new Prymer, and in almost exactly the same way that it is used in church to-day, so was the old Prymer in use, or resting on the book-board of the pew in our old parish churches during service-time in the Middle Ages." We are quite aware that the *Hora* has certain claims to the title of service-book from its having been used in choir until the revision of the Breviary by Pope Pius V., but that any such use was made of the English Prymer we have yet to learn. Mr. Maskell, than whom no better authority can be found, writes that "strictly it was not a service-book of the Church, but originally compiled and intended for the use of the laity." It is quite true that the sources from which the Book of Common Prayer was compiled included amongst others the offices contained in the *Hora*, of which the Prymers are lineal descendants. But it certainly does not follow that because the Book of Common Prayer is a public service-book, therefore the Prymer must have been a public service-book also. Neither can we accept the quotation from *The Boke of Nurture* which Mr. Littlehales advances as in any way supporting his argument. Indeed almost every extract given on pages ix.-xi. strengthens the claims of the Prymer to be accounted "A Layman's Prayer Book," and not a book to be used in the service of the Church liturgically as our Book of Common Prayer, or the Offices contained in the Roman Breviary. In conclusion, we trust that Mr. Littlehales at a day not far distant will print *in extenso* either the MS. of which he has given a few pages, or some other more complete example, for it is remarkable that "the only MS. Prymer yet printed is that given in Mr. Maskell's *Monumenta Ritualia*."

The Industries of Wigan, by H. T. Folkard, R. Betley and C. M. Percy. Wigan, 1889. Royal 8vo, pp. 68.

We are always glad when any special occasion, such as the Agricultural Show and Industrial Exhibition at Wigan last year, leads some thoughtful and well-read man like Mr. Folkard to make researches into the history of his borough or county, and communicate the result of his studies to his fellow-countrymen. It is impossible to read the account of



the early industries of Wigan to which we have just referred without finding the attention arrested by some point of interest such as that "many families [in the end of last century] have a cannel pit in their back-yard; and when they are in want of coals, they send down a collier who will dig as many in a few hours as will serve the family many months—the pit is then shut up." What a primitive picture as compared with mining at the present day! The philologist will be interested in the accounts for "wages and other necessities for the Coal Pitte" taken from a document dated 1600. Mr. Betley's article on Coal Mining and Mr. Percy's on Iron, Steel, Engineering, &c., are equally worthy of attention, but appeal more to the specialist than to the general reader.

## Correspondence.

### "CHIEF" LIBRARIANS.

*To the Editor of THE LIBRARY.*

SIR,—Will you or any of your readers kindly enlighten me as to the difference in the signification of the designations "Librarian," "Chief Librarian," "Principal Librarian," and as to which is the proper designation for the head of a free public library, the subordinate members of which are designated "Sub-Librarian," "Assistant Librarian," &c.? "Chief Librarian" would seem to argue the existence of at least one under him described as "Librarian," from whom he is distinguished by the prefix. But among the institutions using the designation "Chief Librarian," I have failed to find one that recognised also a "Librarian" under him.

### "EXCHANGES."

While in this enquiring mood, I would also like to ask for the opinion of my fellow librarians on another matter which sometimes disturbs my peace of mind. Is it necessary or even desirable to send immediate acknowledgment of the receipt of annual reports sent by other libraries? My plan is to send no such acknowledgment, deeming it a sufficient recognition of the courtesy to send a copy of my own annual report in return, and to mention in it the names of the libraries to which I have been indebted. This is strictly in accordance with the spirit of an "exchange," and is, I believe, also in accordance with the usual practice among other institutions. It would be well, however, to arrive at a common understanding on the subject. Personally I would deprecate any call for immediate acknowledgment, which would have no other substantial effect than to lay an additional burden of expense and trouble on institutions which are already sufficiently burdened—some will say overburdened.

In these remarks I refer only to reports which are regularly published, and are therefore fit subjects of exchange. Catalogues or other extraordinary publications should certainly be specially acknowledged.

Yours faithfully,

A. W. ROBERTSON,

*Librarian of the Public Library, Aberdeen.*

### TALFOURD'S "ION."

DEAR SIR,—Mr. Ditchfield in his article on "The Literature and Writers of Reading," in the last number of *The Library*, calls this work "an English version of the *Ion* of Euripides." This is, however, a great mistake, for beyond the simple fact that in both plays the principal character is a youth named "Ion" (a foundling, in the one, discovered at last to be the son of Apollo by Creusa, daughter of Erechtheus, King of

Athens, whereas in the other he turns out to be the son of Adrastus, King of Argos), the two have absolutely no resemblance or connection whatever. "Ion," with a totally different history in the two plays, is the only *dramatis persona* common to both. The scene of the *Ion* of Euripides is laid at Delphi; that of Talfourd's at Argos; and the whole plot of the one is from beginning to end entirely independent of that of the other. In short, with the exception of the coincidence above mentioned, the *Ion* of Talfourd has no more to do with the *Ion* of Euripides than Shakespeare's *Julius Cæsar* or *Hamlet*. F. N.

#### LIBRARY BUREAU

SIR,—Like "Student," I have been surprised that the suggestion to form a Library Bureau has not met with more response, or even adequate notice. Perhaps as suggested by Mr. Ogle there may be an impression abroad that only London librarians would benefit thereby. Curiously enough, the exact opposite impression was conveyed to my mind, and whilst fully realizing the inestimable value such a scheme might be to librarians at large, if properly carried out, I forbore to send in my name as an adherent, thinking that it was for others more interested to speak first.

With respect to the preparation of uniform title slips of all new books, great assistance could be rendered to librarians by the publishers if only they could be induced to follow the lead set by the Smithsonian Institution. That enterprising establishment now places in front of each work it issues a leaf bearing ready printed to a uniform size all the necessary title slips, including main and cross references, both by author and subject entry, so that all the numerous librarians of the American Public Libraries have to do on receipt of the volume is to cut them out and insert them in their places in his catalogue.

The cost of printing these with the volume must be trifling indeed, whilst the labour and time saved to the host of librarians is enormous. Could not our publishers be approached by the Association, and as many of them as possible induced to do the same in the future, the Association offering to help by giving copies of their rules, and aiding in other ways. Even if minor alterations or changes of headings had to be made by individual librarians, according to fancy, it would still be a great saving to have the bulk of the work already done.

B. B. WOODWARD,

*Librarian, Natural History Museum.*

[*This letter has been unavoidably held back.*—EDITOR.]

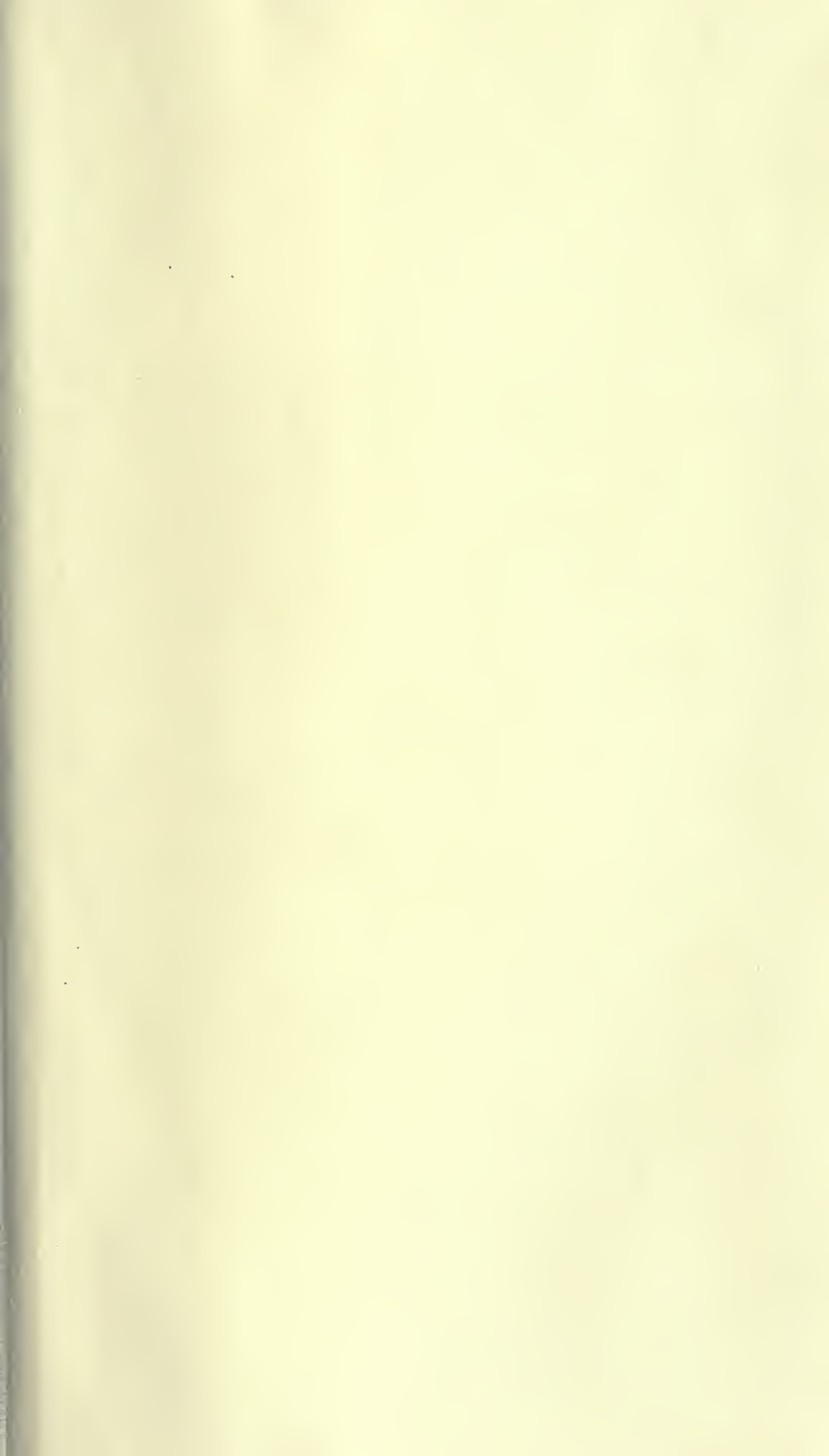
#### Library Association Record.

THE last monthly meeting was held at Hanover Square on Monday, November 10th. The Rev. W. H. Tickell, 283, High Road, Lee, S.E., was elected a member; and John Colman, Publisher, 61, Honeywell Road, S.W., was proposed for election at next meeting. Mr. Joseph Gilbert read a paper entitled "Some Misleading Titles of Modern Books." A discussion followed, and a vote of thanks was awarded to the author.

#### NEXT MEETING.

THE December meeting will be held in the Battersea Public Library, Lavender Hill, S.W. (*Station, Clapham Junction*), on Monday, December 8th, at eight p.m., when Mr. Inkster, the Librarian, will read a paper on the Battersea Public Libraries.

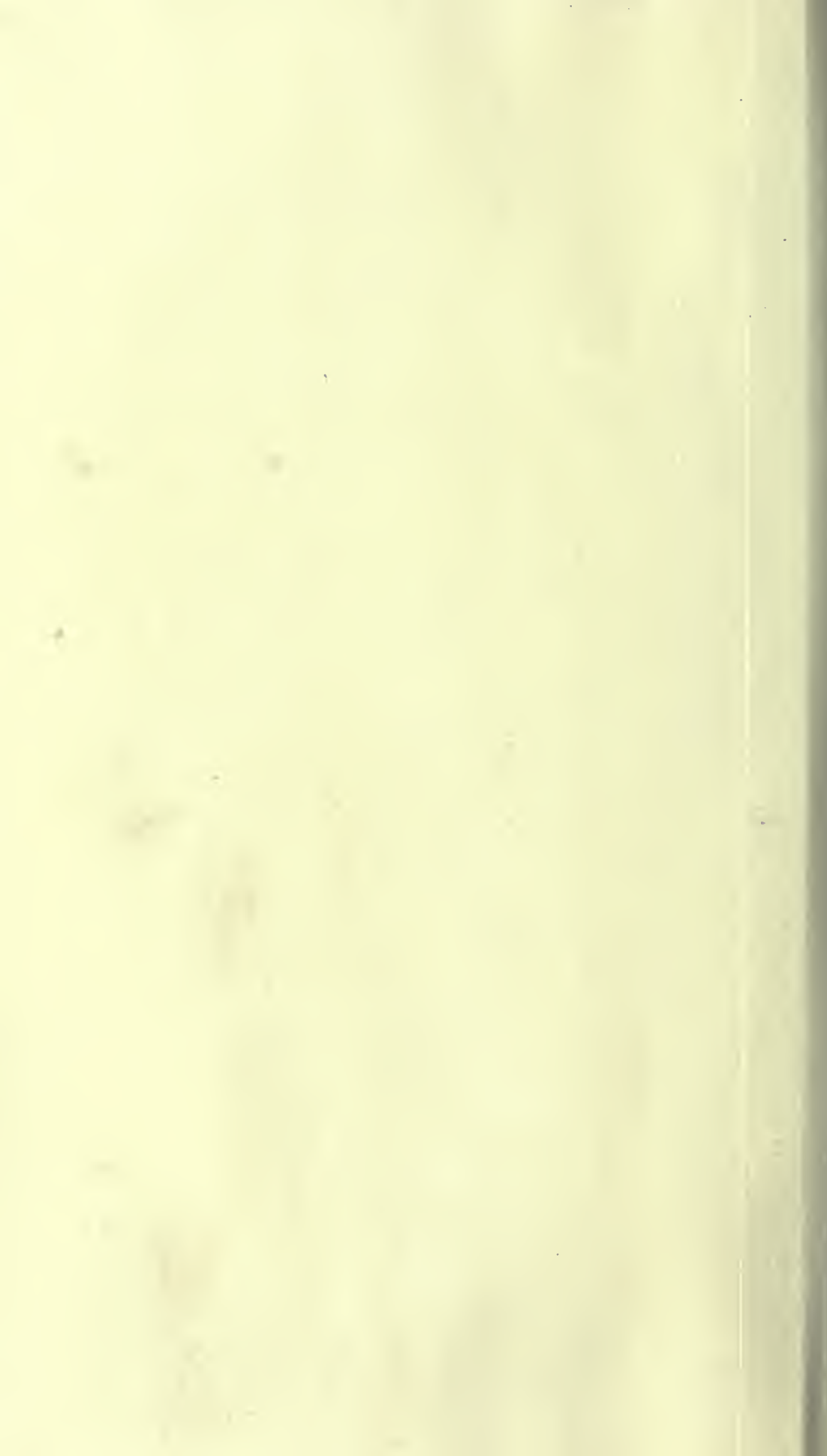
Editorial Communications and Books for Review should be addressed to the Editor, 20, Hanover Square, W.—Advertisements and Letters on Business to the Publishers, 62, Paternoster Row, E.C.













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